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THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2011

Father of three back home after ordeal

Family's delight at son's dramatic escape from Libya

Report by JO PRICE

BARRY 'born and bred' oil worker, Richard Foscolo has returned to south Wales after escaping from his desert camp in crisis-torn Libya.

The father of three was working as a fire safety advisor for OPS International on an oil-field in Ghani, nine hours drive from Tripoli. He had been stationed there for seven weeks and was due to return home last Wednesday.

However, due to the situation in Libya, regular flights for the 300 oil workers at the camp had stopped on Saturday, February 19, leaving them with no way out.

Despite sporadic communication links, Mr Foscolo had managed to contact his wife, Angie, warning her of his concerns. "At that time, we only had enough water to last approximately another week," reflected Richard from the safety of his home in Barry.

It had also been rumoured that his isolated desert location was under threat from a group of mercenaries called the Black Shadow Militia. "We had to prepare for the possibility of attack, gathering any weapons we could find, in case the rumours were true", said Richard.

The father of three, described how he had considered waiting a few more days before "making a break for it" along with some colleagues. This would have involved venturing into the notoriously dangerous Sahara to try and make it home.

Meanwhile back in south Wales, Angie, married to Richard for 14 years, went into 'work mode' and bravely put herself into the media spotlight. With the help of Vale MP, Alun Cairns, she aimed to highlight the dangers oil workers in Libya were under.

Richard praised his wife's actions in generating media coverage. He referred to her efforts as, "brilliant. My plight and that of others would not have been known if it wasn't for her."

The news of the miraculous return of their only son came as a "huge relief" for parents, Jean and Bryan Foscolo of Barry.

(SEE PAGE 5)

BARRY-BORN WOMAN FLIES TO SURPRISE SOLDIER SON

A young soldier was moved to tears this week when his mother and father flew in from Canada to welcome him home from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Elisabeth Chronik, who left Barry at the age of 19, had planned the surprise for her 28-year-old son Nathan.

(SEE PAGE 5 FOR A FULL REPORT).

Students' visit to the Senedd on Saint's day

THESE pupils from All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Barry (above) visited the Senedd on St David's Day to tell the National Assembly for Wales' children and young people committee what they think should be looked at in the fourth Assembly.

They spoke to members about their concerns, including healthy eating in schools, the environment and education.

The pupils' evidence will be used in the committee's legacy report, which will sum up its work over the third Assembly.

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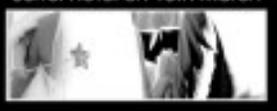
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Rainbow concert and the WRVS

IN your issue of February 17, you ran a piece about the Rainbow concert party receiving a gift from Aberthaw Power Station.

The article stated that this was presented at the OAP Club in Penarth, but I would like to point out it was the WRVS Tuesday Club. We would not like to confuse your readers!

Caroline A Jones, Penarth
(WRVS project leader)

Voting and FocusBARRY

I WAS amused to see the letter in last week's edition of The GEM from David Green of FocusBARRY, congratulating themselves on the "splendid" 19 per cent of the votes they received in the Dyfan ward by-election.

This means over 80 per cent of the voters rejected their candidate. Either their arithmetic is very poor, or they are very easily satisfied.

Perhaps now we can be spared their endless trumpetings about how they are going to save Barry and perform miracles – and they could go and do something useful.

Brian Morris,
Barry

Human rights and the rule of law

I SEE from The GEM (February 17) that our Vale MP Alun Cairns, has voted to defy the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights that prisoners in Britain should, no must, be allowed to exercise their right to vote, if they so wish.

Aside from the fact that many may not vote anyway, as they have other concerns, it seems our MP, and cross-party colleagues, decided to defy our treaty obligations and pick and choose which court judgments, and therefore laws, to obey.

I must remember that. I may decide to drive on the right tomorrow, not the left, as I prefer the European way of doing things.

After all, if our legislators can chose to discard the 'Rule of Law' principle, then I, and anyone, must have the same right to decide which laws we deem to be unfair and, therefore, which can be ignored.

Christopher Short,
Barry

'Don't wait around for a developer'

ABOUT 13 years ago, I wrote to the Council about opening a Friday market on the coach park at the Island.

They wrote back saying it was earmarked for development.

When?

I was a market trader in the 60s and managed to get a spot at Abergavenny.

I recently visited the market and was amazed at the size of it. It has increased at least threefold and bars and cafes are busy.

The Council want to get their act together, never mind waiting for a developer to do what's really needed – a road off the Island.

In the days when I was trading, you could not get a shop for 'all the tea in China'.

Markets were the only answer and they were difficult to get on.

It's a bit different today!

Bill Lang,
Barry

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Readers' Letters

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FAMILY UPSET BY BULLY ON BEACH

I WOULD like to tell your readers about an incident that occurred on Barry Island beach recently.

My husband and I had taken our two dogs for a run on the beach, as we often do in the winter months. This time, we had our married daughter and her three young daughters with us, who are 11, 9 and 3 year old. I sat outside Marco's with my elderly mother drinking coffee whilst the rest of the family were on the beach.

After a while, the two eldest grand-daughters returned and were visibly shaken and upset by something.

My husband, daughter and youngest grand-daughter returned and the incident was explained to us. It appears that whilst they were on the beach, a dog belonging to another family was making a bit of a nuisance of himself by 'pestering' our dogs and eventually my husband had encouraged the dog to go, by tapping him slightly on the side.

A young lad of about seven saw what he thought was his dog being hit, and immediately went to tell his father.

His father, being taller and and bigger than my husband, ran towards my family using foul language – to the extent that it frightened my daughter and her girls to the point of tears.

The shouting went into a face-to-face threat by the man towards my husband – my daughter was frightened for his safety.

The man continued to threaten my husband, until he was finally persuaded by his wife to move away from what was by now a very frightened family.

Thankfully, a woman also enjoying the beach had witnessed the incident and came across to comfort my daughter and her girls, which made a huge difference to them, and she continued to support them all after the bully had left the beach.

During the following hours, as we discussed the incident with the children to help them recover, I was able to point out that they had witnessed the two ends of the spectrum in terms of people's behaviour.

Although the incident was truly ugly, frightening and upsetting, the kindness of another person helped to balance things up a bit.

We will try to remember the kindness of this person longer than the poor behaviour of the other!

I would like to convey my grateful thanks to the woman who provided comfort and support to my family – it really did have a positive impact on us all.

I thank God that she was on the beach at the time and was brave enough to come to our rescue, showing true compassion.

(Name and address supplied)

'Double standards over parking'

WITH reference to the letter headed 'Letter writer was wrong about VIBE in the Vale' by Mike Bendall (The GEM, February 17), my main point was that the VPod was allowed to use King's Square when traders were not!

It would seem that if the Vale of Glamorgan asks, you can park without problems on the Square!

The information I gave in my earlier letter of February 10, concerning VPod operations, came directly from the SWOOSH website. If this information is incorrect, then the website is at fault.

Mr Bendall would seem to suggest that I do not support voluntary organisations, but I too am a volunteer working to support our estate.

If, as Mr Bendall says, they deliver so much for young people, how come we have never seen their "exciting and action packed VPod" anywhere near our estate?

I also take issue with Mr Bendall's comments regarding "visiting projects to see the good work being produced by young people in the Vale".

We, on our estate, know full well the good work from our people, which is provided with help from community volunteers and with NO support from the local council.

Our young volunteers provide much help and support to our activities and as Mr Bendall says, "Careless words can damage reputations."

Once again, my criticism was against the apparent double standards by the Vale of Glamorgan against traders.

J Lockwood,
Barry

GEM prizewinners say 'thank you'

I JUST wanted to thank you, belatedly, for the £20 prize I won last September in The GEM.

Due to family circumstances, we were unable to use the voucher until this week, when we had a lovely lunch at The Sycamore Tree, Colwinston, in the Vale.

Our hosts, Angela and Andy, were very welcoming and couldn't do enough for us. The meal was delicious and we hope they do well in the area – they deserve to. Thanks again.

Steve and Helen Hooper, Rhoose

Time to milk the hens...

DOES the Vale Council know something I don't about GM foods? On their instructions for the new food waste scheme, it says: '*Dairy products, including egg shells***'.**

Just a thought, but I can't stop now, I must go and milk the hens...

Davy Cartwright,
Llantwit Major

'Turn off lights to save money'

I REFER to a GEM article on February 17 relating to a package of planned cuts by the local authority.

Whilst a difficult task, there is one service, that has been cut by several other authorities already, which if reduced, would save hundreds of thousands of pounds and, as far as I am aware, has not been considered or certainly mentioned by councillors and officers at the Vale.

I refer to street lighting, which could surely be reduced and switched off throughout the Vale between, say, midnight and 6am.

There are many cul-de-sacs and closes where this could be carried out and on any road with light traffic at these times.

If this was done, it may help toward saving leisure and library facilities among others.

G Thomas, Penarth

Interference from European judges

HOW is it even possible for these faceless European judges to threaten to cut men's pensions by anywhere between 10 and 30 per cent, possibly retrospectively, and to increase women's car insurance premiums?

There would be no right of appeal against these judgments, so what exactly is the point of our MPs and AMs?

When did we ever sign up to this sort of interference?

What has it got to do with preventing another European war?

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge

RHOOSE POINT: land *not* sold

WE write with reference to your article headed 'Rhoose Point land to be bought by Vale Council' on Page 19 of The GEM on February 24.

We want to point out that your article is incorrect: there has been no decision by this council to pay £20,000 for the land at Rhoose Point.

The report considered by cabinet on Monday, February 21 made it clear that the land was always due to be taken into the ownership of the council.

There will be no charge for the land but the council will be expecting a sum of £20,000 from the Administrators for taking on the land in question.

This is quite different from the council paying £20,000 for the land.

In writing, we would point out that the council has been frustrated in its efforts to take ownership of the land by reason of Cofton, the original development company, falling into administration.

However, as elected members for Rhoose, we are committed to taking ownership of the land, so that the land can be managed as an asset for both existing and future residents of Rhoose.

Councillors Gordon Kemp and Jeffrey James, Rhoose

FOOTNOTE: *The GEM acknowledges this error, which arose from a misreading of the small print in a council report.*

Best response wins the vote

I'M pretty sure the vast majority of the electorate will agree with me, but I speak certainly on my own behalf, when I say to all MPs and AMs – please be aware that getting in touch with the voting public once every four or five years is not enough to convince us to vote for you or your party.

If you want to be popular and well supported in the Welsh and UK polls, then get out there and meet the people and find out what we really want, instead of shoving your flyers through our letterboxes in the months leading up to a vote.

I, for one, will be making a decision based on who has bothered to respond to emails I have sent and been the most accessible with surgeries etc, not those who appear in every press photo – or those who make empty promises to make everything better, when they appear to have done little about it all term.

So, thank you to those MPs and AMs who have given my thoughts and worries a voice, and thank you for responding to my emails and for seeing me in your surgeries. You know who you are.

Lynnette Spragg,
Barry.

Well done, Curtis!

BARRY boy Curtis Mathews represents the Great Britain under-20s decathlon team for the first time, at Sheffield Arena on March 5-6. Hard work does pay off!

Demi Mathews

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	05.41	9.1	17.59	9.1
04 Fri	06.19	9.4	18.35	9.4
05 Sat	06.47	9.5	19.07	9.6
06 Sun	07.21	9.8	19.33	9.6
07 Mon	07.49	9.7	20.02	9.5
08 Tues	08.13	9.4	20.27	9.4
09 Wed	08.46	9.3	20.53	9.2
10 Thur	09.12	9.0	21.28	8.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • tel 01446 774484
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Residents are pictured with Jane Hutt the Vale AM, Vale MP Alun Cairns and local councillors at Highlight Park Community Centre.

Worried residents set up action group at Highlight Park

WORRIED residents crowded into Highlight Park Community Centre in Barry to discuss possible development on part of the Brynhill Golf Club site.

The meeting was called and chaired by Vale AM Jane Hutt. She reported: "With over 40 people attending, there was a constructive discussion about the need to make the views and concerns of local residents known to Redrow and the Vale Council.

"A Residents Action Group was formed and it was agreed that the group would seek to liaise with Brynhill Golf Club and local people in the coming weeks, to express their opposition to this development."

'Keep motorbikes out of local parks'

– Barry residents' plea

WITH the evenings drawing out, some Barry residents have complained at people using trials bikes and quad bikes in local parks.

One resident of Pencoedtre Village told The GEM: "It is not just the noise or the speed of the vehicles, if you are taking children and dogs to a park you do not expect to have to contend with this sort of thing.

"Sometimes, we can hear if a motorbike is being used in the nearby park (off Skomer Road). The noise travels all the way to the back gardens of people on the estate."

In recent weeks, people have been spotted using quad and trials bikes in Pencoedtre Park.

Another resident, who also did not want to be idenfied, said: "One man on a trials bike was racing across Pencoedtre Park at high speed. This causes damage to the football pitches."

The use of motorcycle vehicles is prohibited in local parks.

Phil Beaman, operational manager for parks and grounds maintenance, said: *"At the current time there are no reports of unauthorised vehicles being used on land managed by the parks division.*

"The riding of quads, trial bikes and mini bikes and certain other vehicles is prohibited in parks in the Vale under the byelaws with regard to Pleasure Grounds dated 13th March 1987.

"Any person who contravenes these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine up to £100."

Penarth man (19) awaits sentence

Report by AJ SICLUNA

SENTENCE has been adjourned at Cardiff Crown Court on a 19-year-old Penarth man, Daniel Barclay, who had been committed for sentence by Vale magistrates after being convicted of inciting a girl under 16 to engage in sexual activity, and possessing an extreme pornographic image.

His counsel, Claire Pickthall, said that social workers found Barclay had difficulty opening up to people.

She said he had had a disruptive childhood.

"A lot has gone on in his life which may have caused him not to open up."

Mr Justice John Griffith Williams said there would be a custodial sentence if a community sentence was ruled out. It did not necessarily follow, he said, that he would not get a custodial sentence.

A psychiatric report was ordered and Barclay will be sentenced next month.

He was released on bail.

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SEE PAGES 12-13.

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Plans put forward for waste plant

AN application has been submitted to the Vale Council for a waste recycling and transfer facility on Llandow Trading Estate.

The application comes before the Vale Council planning committee today (Thursday).

The company making the application, Abacus Ltd, wants to build a covered sorting area, with a weighbridge, while there will be 12 storage bays for different materials.

The site will not be open to the public, and the application says that it expects to handle 15,000 tonnes of waste per year, with three staff employed there permanently.

The application says that the tonnage could rise to 18,750 after three years, and that the facility will take waste from the Vale, Cardiff and 'Mid-Glamorgan'.

The estimated traffic generated in bringing in the waste will be, according to the application, no more than 30 two-way trips per day.

Objections have been made by all three of the local community councils, at Llandow, Penllyn and Langan, and those objections focus on increased traffic involving heavy commercial vehicles.

Llandow, in particular, is concerned about more traffic travelling through Llysworney, while Penllyn Community Council think that the A48 / Pentre Meyrick junction will be adversely affected.

Langan Community Council concentrates its objection on more traffic passing the local primary school.

However, the highways department of the Vale Council does not agree with the community councils, saying that "...the site is part of an existing industrial area with adequate parking and turning on site" and that ".. this proposal will not significantly increase the number of HGVs travelling to and from the business park, which has several established businesses reliant on similar traffic."

There are two other applications in the pipeline for recycling facilities in the area, and council officers are reporting that 90 other letters have been received, the majority being "objections to all three current or recent recycling applications in the locality".

The officers' report adds: "A large number of these letters are signed identical copies of a standard letter."

The officers' recommendation is to approve the application, although a number of conditions will be attached.

'Mr. Smooth' reaches regional final of Britain Does Variety

A FORMER Barry man has made it through to the Britain Does Variety regional final to be held in The Dolman Theatre, Newport.

Dave Dean was put forward for the competition by his wife, Joanne Williams. Four years ago she encouraged him to get up on stage and sing karoake, where he soon discovered he had a talent and overcame his stagefright.

Describing himself as 'shy', Dave says, 'singing has caused his confidence to grow.'

A carpenter and plasterer by day he is now known as 'Mr. Smooth' because his voice is smooth and easy to listen to, according to a judge at the 'Welsh Factor' competition Dave entered in Neath back in December. The tradesman reached the final of the 'Welsh Factor' beating 29 other singers.

"He loves to sing Frank Sinatra and Michael Buble. He would sing in the Admiral when we lived in Barry," says Joanne Williams. Dave admits he prefers to sing to older generations who tend to appreciate his taste in music more than youngsters.

Despite this, the father of two makes time to sing his two-year-old son, Jaiden, to sleep every night with his favourite Nat King Cole number, 'Let There Be Love.'

He says his son is sometimes brought to watch him perform and 'jumps up and down in his stroller when he sees his Dad.'

Mr Dean, who grew up in Ely, Cardiff, has recently secured an agent. The Rat Pack fan performed his first gig in the Severn Sisters Miner's Club in Neath last weekend.

He has chosen to sing 'Mac the Knife' by Bobby Darin at the regional Britain's Got Variety finals.

The singer aims to don his tuxedo and beat 19 rivals in the competition on March 12th to get the chance to go to London for the Grand Final in June.

Play area takes shape

A NEW landmark play area at Weston Square in Barry has begun to take shape thanks to funding released from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Vale Council through the Barry regeneration area programme.

"A public consultation was conducted by the council to allow local residents to have the greatest possible input into the redevelopment and say exactly what facilities they'd like to see," a spokeswoman said.

The toddler area will include a swing with two cradle seats, a multi-unit play structure and a rocker springer and rocker seesaw. The junior area will boast a five-arm rotator, a climbing wall with banister slide, a stand-on roundabout and a large rope seat pendulum swing. Funky graphics will add plenty of colours to the area and seating and bins will also be provided.

'£500 Dinas Powys sign is not good value for money'

IT has been claimed that Dinas Powys Community Council will be acting with 'audacity' if it replaces a £500 sign during a time of economic austerity.

LEFT: This sign on the edge of Dinas Powys Common along Southra Road is identical to one which has to be replaced.

The original sign was stolen from Dinas Powys Common just after Christmas.

Mrs Elisabeth Warren contacted The GEM to highlight the decision and argued that it was a poor execution of resources.

She explained: "Jobs are in jeopardy, cutbacks are being made and plans shelved throughout the country due to a lack of resources, yet Dinas Powys Community Council has the audacity to waste our money to replace an unnecessary and excessive sign on the Common.

"At a cost of £500 to make and install, surely this money could be better spent on maintaining local amenities which, in this time of austerity, we are at risk of losing."

Mrs Warren said that the warning sign to horseriders had been a waste of money because it was located near the junction of Mount Road and St Andrew's Road, and riders did not even approach the Common from that spot

The chairman of Dinas Powys Community Council, Coun JH Williams, responded by issuing a statement.

It read: *"On behalf of my fellow councillors, may I clarify that a vote to replace the stolen horse riding warning sign was taken at our monthly meeting on February 10.*

"The original decision to erect this sign on the Common was in response to letters of complaint the council had received from members of the public and those engaged in sporting activities on Dinas Powys Common.

"The complaints were in relation to inconsiderate horse riding on the Common.

"Accordingly, my council felt that it had an obligation to replace the stolen sign in an effort to continue to encourage responsible horse riding on the Common."

Vision for Barry street goes on public display

Artist's impression of new-look Thompson Steet, Barry, seen from Holton Road.

PLANS for the improvements to Thompson Street, Barry, feature in an exhibition at the Vale Council's Dock office.

Before work starts on construction this month, drop-in sessions will provide information on what is planned, in addition to on-going discussions with businesses, residents and other key stakeholders, a spokeswoman said.

The project includes a new road layout with new paving, drainage, lighting, trees, litter bins, bollards, CCTV and public art. The bulk of the work is expected to be completed by the end of August.

Vale Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "Thompson Street is set to be transformed and will serve as a fitting gateway that will link the town centre with the Waterfront via the new footbridge."

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Please submit your company's profile, citing examples of contracts undertaken since 2005, plus three references and fee proposals for as many of the disciplines referred to above as possible. The closing date for the receipt of references and proposals is **Friday, 25 March.** It is intended to award the successful tenderer a three year contract ending in June 2014. For more information please contact:

Mr C Lewis, Deputy Executive Officer,
Barry Town Council, Council Offices,
7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA
Tel: 01446 738663
Email: clifflewis@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

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Contact:
Sian Cornwell-Shaw
Estates Section
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709756
E-Mail: scornwell-shaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Soldier returns home – to a surprise visit from Canada!

ABOVE: Elizabeth, Nathan and Dan Chronik.

BARRY-born Elizabeth Chronik flew from Canada to surprise her son, Lieutenant Nathan Chronik, when he returned from a tour in Afghanistan with B Company, 2nd Royal Welsh Regiment.

Elizabeth, who has lived in Canada since the age of 19, decided to arrange a 'spontaneous' trip back to Wales with her husband Dan to welcome home their 28-year-old son, Nathan, last Thursday February 24.

Nathan, who trained at Sandhurst, has been decribed by his Aunt, Margaret Wakefield, as a "a true patriot to Wales." He opted to join the Royal Welsh Regiment on completion of his training and has been serving for three and a half years.

The soldier had no idea his family would be there to meet him when he got off the plane and arrived at his army base in Tidworth. He was in "total shock and burst into tears" Elizabeth told The GEM.

The reunited trio stayed at the army base that evening and then headed back to Wales to visit the rest of Nathan's extended family over the weekend.

His mum had planned the surprise with the help of Corporal Ricky Ellen, who was based at Camp Bastion with Nathan. She liaised with him via Facebook to find out exactly when and where Nathan was due home.

Her son had completed a seven- month tour of Afghanistan upon his return last week, when he was greeted by his parents.

Elizabeth described her "happiness at seeing that not just her son, but all 99 soldiers in the regiment were back in one piece." When on leave Nathan usually stays with his aunt, Margaret Wakefield, in Barry. The last time he was home was in October, for two weeks.

Mrs Wakefield had no idea her sister was returning from Canada until she saw the reunion on television. She said, "I was astonished, I filled up."

Mrs Wakefield dedicates much of her time to campaigning for support for Nathan and his fellow comrades in Afghanistan.

In December, she persuaded Marks and Spencer's at Culverhouse Cross to donate over £200 to provide supplies to the soldiers over Christmas.

Elizabeth described 'Barry as Nathan's home from home.' Despite being Canadian-born the lieutenant feels a strong affiliation to Wales.

Elizabeth and Dan returned to Canada at the beginning of this week. Nathan is due to fly out to see them and his siblings in a few weeks time.

JO PRICE

BARRY MAN FLEES LIBYA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

They accompanied his wife Angie, their three grandchildren, Louis, 9, Sophia, 5, Lily, 3 and Richard's sister, Amanda, to meet him off the train at Cardiff Central last Friday.

Jean Foscolo describes seeing her son as "fantastic. He looked wrecked but we were glad to have him home."

The family were only aware of his safe return when they received a phonecall during the early hours of the morning that very same day.

Richard, 39, was rescued by sheer luck along with six other workers when an aeroplane was forced to land and refuel at their desert base due to a sandstorm. The workers took the opportunity to escape and flew to Tripoli airport.

Mr Foscolo told us how his passport had been taken off him by his employer when he had initially begun work in Libya. Therefore, after battling to get himself through security with the help of Deputy Ambassador Nick Latter, he was eventually allowed to board a flight to Gatwick. When The GEM asked him about his new local celebrity status, Richard laughed and explained he had been "dreading the school-run this week" as he believed he may be recognised.

Jean and Bryan have been the centre of public attention in Barry since their son's return with locals giving them the 'thumbs up.'

Richard, who grew up in Barry, described being back in his hometown as "crazy", but was very happy to be reunited with his family in a 'familiar' environment.

When asked what he would do next, he said he would stay "indefinitely now."

As the Foreign Office are advising 'against all but essential travel to Libya', Mr Foscolo confirmed he will certainly not be returning there until it is safe to do so.

ABOVE: Bryan Foscolo, Angie Foscolo, Sophia Foscolo, Richard Foscolo, Lily Foscolo, Louis Foscolo, Jean Foscolo and MP Alun Cairns.

LIONS' DELAYED CHRISTMAS FUN!

DUE to snow in December, Park Lions weren't able to have their Christmas party until January.

The players and their families enjoyed the party atmoshere created by The Salty Dog Experience and a great time was had by all that attended.

The club would like to say a huge thank you to Blue Bell florists, Barry Gate, Caso Paco, Wetherspoons, Shahi Noor, Seasons Greetings and Holton Road Chippy for the very generous raffle prizes.

For more information about the club, please telephone 01446 738486. **KI**

Service – and a quiz

ON Shrove Tuesday, March 8, All Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a special service suitable for all ages beginning at 6.30pm.

Refreshments, including pancakes, will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

On March 11, the church is holding a quiz night including a fish and chip supper at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7.50 including fish and chips or alternative options. All proceeds will go towards the planned work to convert the interior of All Saints.

Contact Mel Griffin on 029 2071 2301 for full details.

New CCTV

THE Safer Vale Partnership has secured funding, including £160,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government through the Barry regeneration area programme, to upgrade current CCTV cameras and install new ones throughout Barry.

There are currently 51 CCTV cameras in the Vale.

These have assisted in 312 arrests since April 2010; with 92 per cent of these arrests in Barry.

The new camera locations have been chosen as a result of strategic planning to ensure the areas in most need benefit from the safety and reassurance that comes with CCTV.

The new locations include: Holton Road near Evans Street; Holton Road near Regent Street (upgrade); Thompson Street; Barry Leisure Centre/Contact Centre; new locations at Barry Island; Bassett Park; Provincial House; Gladstone Road; Barry Waterfront; and Barry Fire Station.

The partnership has stated that it is confident the camera locations, which will now cover large areas of Barry, will provide a heightened level of safety for residents.

Man (31) escapes jail sentence – but receives 2-year community order

WITHIN hours of a burglary being committed in Dinas Powys, involving the theft of a large amount of property, some of it was found in a car stopped by the police.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that 31-year-old Noel James had a number of CDs and a set of number plates in his vehicle.

James, of Barry, had been convicted by Vale magistrates of dishonestly handling stolen goods and had been committed to the crown court for sentence.

He received a two-year community order involving two years' supervision and a 20-week curfew from 8pm–6am.

Recorder Duncan Bould said: "I know that you came to court expecting custody, which would ordinarily follow.

"But I am conscious of the fact that the handling you committed involved a limited amount of the actual property stolen, and you have been in custody for three months."

He said he made the order with "his fingers heavily crossed".

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that on November 18, a garage in Dinas Powys was broken into and a considerable amount of property stolen – including CDs and a set of number plates.

Shortly after, James was stopped in his Rover car by the police and some of the property was found inside.

James claimed the CDs were his and denied taking part in the actual burglary.

He was said to have previous convictions for wounding, driving offences and for handling stolen goods.

His counsel, Kevin Seal, said: "He had lapsed into heroin addiction but he is now clear of drugs. He has been in custody since November and in many respects has received punishment."

Since 2008, he said, there had been "a spiralling of offending" but for two years before that he had committed no offence.

He said he now had a positive attitude, an insight into his behaviour and was making progress.

"He is not a lost cause and positive assistance will benefit him and society. He is building bridges."

AJ SICLUNA

STUDENTS GET READY FOR THEIR GCSES

BARRY Comprehensive School's annual year-11 'revision weekend' returned to the Park Inn Hotel in Cardiff recently, and the venue provided the perfect base for a highly intensive weekend of study and preparation for the GCSE examinations.

Fifty-nine year-11 students, the highest number invited to the weekend, and more than 20 staff contributed to two days of subject specific examination preparation.

Feedback at the end of the weekend was extremely positive and the students left feeling highly motivated and much more confident about their GCSE examinations. They all appreciated the time and effort put in by staff and the excellent facilities available to them at the hotel.

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'CATALOGUE OF ABUSE' *court told*

Bridgend man (55) is jailed for sex offences

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A SEX abuser has received a 10-year extended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court.

Mr Justice John Griffith Williams directed that 55-year-old ex-railway signalman Colin Baker of Bridgend receive a seven-year custodial sentence and to be on licence for the full 10-year period.

He also banned him from working with children for life, ordered him to register as a sex offender indefinitely, and the judge also imposed a sexual prevention order.

Baker admitted 14 charges involving indecent assault, and sexual assault, said by prosecutor Caroline Rees to have been committed on girls over a number of years.

The judge said that Baker, a man with no previous convictions, had taken part in "a catalogue of abuse" and there was evidence of grooming.

"There is no indication that you feel guilty and that you tried to minimise your offending. There is also no evidence of any true remorse," said the judge.

There was, he continued, no alternative to a prison sentence of some length.

"I am satisfied there is a high-level risk of further offending," said the judge.

The fact that he had no previous convictions was of limited mitigation and the only full mitigation was his clear guilty plea.

Ms Rees said Baker committed the offences for his own sexual gratification.

When found out, he labelled one of his victims a liar.

The offences, she said, came to light last year, the police were contacted and the victims were interviewed.

When arrested, Baker said: "Things are going from worse to worse." The court was told he made partial admissions but tried to minimise his guilt.

At a later stage, he said he had no excuse and was glad that he had been found out.

He also told the police he was at a loss as to why he behaved in such a manner.

His counsel John Ryan said: "He is not a predatory paedophile. It is clear he needs to engage with professional services.

"He acted on impulse and there were no threats and no payment. For five years, he served in the army."

The judge said he had to pass a sentence which reflected Baker's total criminality.

Vale AM's surgeries

VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member Jane Hutt, will be holding surgeries on Saturday, March 5 from 10am-11am at Cowbridge Town Hall and from 11.30am-12noon at Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

No appointment is necessary. For more information, call the constituency office on 01446 740981.

Exhibition recalls dark days of war

SEVENTY years ago the skies over Barry droned to the sound of German bombers, while the horizon to the west glowed red with the fires burning the city of Swansea.

During that weekend, in 1941, around 35,000 incendiary bombs and 800 high-explosive bombs turned Dylan Thomas's town into a smouldering wasteland. Over 200 people lost their lives and hundreds more were made homeless.

Cardiff had already suffered such a fate, and Barry was to also to experience the pain of aerial bombing.

Taking part in Swansea commemorations recently, and helping to bring the past to life was Barry based Second World War reenactor and historian Ade Pitman.

He said: "It was very moving for us living historians to be invited to take part in the commemorations, as indeed it always is when you attempt to represent what people went through during the dark days of WW2. My mother and her family evacuated to Devon due to the German bombing, leaving everything behind here in Wales. It's difficult for those of us who didn't live through this to imagine what life was like back then.

"To try to help us to understand, a group of local historians are holding an exhibition called 'Snapshots of Barry during the Second World War', at Victoria Park Rooms, Cadoxton.

"The exhibition aims to show a little of what life was like for local Barrians during the Second World War."

It runs until March 27.

On Sunday, March 6, Victoria Park will step back in time, as air raid wardens, GIs and the Home Guards give families the chance to meet the people of the past.

St David's Day fayre a winner for visitors!

PICTURED: Jane Hutt AM, with Dorothy Connell, Rowan Connell and Laura Bates at the Fairtrade stall.

A ST DAVID'S Day fayre at Porthceri Centre drew hundreds of visitors, among them Vale AM Jane Hutt, who commented: "With crafts, cakes, books, art exhibitions. entertainment, refreshments and a Fairtrade stall, the fayre opened by Miss Wales, Courtney Hamilton, was a winner!"

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Over the People's Bridge – and on to St Fagans Castle

Recently, Val O'Donaghue added an extra linear walk into the Penarth and District Ramblers' programme that followed the Ely Trail where Cardiff Council is developing the trail along the whole length of the River Ely, which is suitable for both walkers and cyclists to use.

The surrounding area that they passed on their route from Penarth to St Fagans has some interesting history.

On a dull and damp morning, a group of six set out from Cogan Leisure Centre and crossed the Pont y Werin or 'People's Bridge that was opened on July 14, 2010, over the Ely River. Following the trail around 'Asda Mountain', they crossed Penarth Road making their way towards Leckwith Road.

The Leckwith old bridge has a medieval connection and when the new bridge opened in 1935 the old one was left in place to provide access to Leckwith Bridge House.

Made of rubble stone its three arches, two of which are pointed while the central one is semi-circular, once took carriers' carts from the salt marshes of Leckwith Moors on the journey through Cadoxton to Barry and the open sea.

Passing under the link road, they crossed playing fields between the river and Lansdowne Garden houses which were developed on the site of Lansdowne Hospital and reached Ely Bridge. The group left the river to join Cowbridge Road East to cross Ely Bridge and rejoin the trail.

Near here, the Tower Brewery opened in 1855 and during the 19th century in industrialised south Wales, it was safer to drink beer than to quaff the water – as many victims of cholera outbreaks found. The original brewery is now the home of Ely Brewery workshops.

Two Bronze Age spearheads, five axes and part of a sword blade dating back to between 2,500BC and the middle of the 1st century were found in St Fagans Great Wood in 1862, during quarrying work for stone to construct the Great Western Railway.

In 1922, this wood was renamed as Plymouth Great Wood, after being donated to the City of Cardiff by the Earl of Plymouth as a public recreational area.

The end of their journey was St Fagans Castle, which overlooks the Ely Valley and the first castle was built by the Norman knight Peter Le Sore in 1091. When a large Elizabethan country house was built by Dr John Gibbon in the 1580s, the surviving medieval buildings were removed and lost.

Much later, after the estate passed into the hands of the Earl of Plymouth, it was donated in 1946 for the opening of the Welsh Folk Museum and the following year the grounds were opened to the public, followed by the castle.

Now, it has become the National History Museum and inside the parkland architecture from different periods of history have been re-erected and restored.

On March 5, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile easy walk in and around Swansea Bay and Gower; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

On March 6, meet at 10am at Cogan for a 5-mile easy walk at Radyr Woods and the Glamorgan Canal; contact Krys on 029 2070 0678.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

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Drilling in rural Vale plan sparks angry responses

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A LOCAL company has applied to test drill for natural gas at a unit on Llandow Industrial Estate..

The company believes there could be commercial qualities of 'shale gas' built up in shale deposits around 700 metres below ground.

Coastal Oil and Gas, based in Bridgend Industrial Estate, is a company that has been investigating gas deposits in the area in recent years, including looking at disused coal mines that have now filled with methane.

However, environmental groups have responded by questioning the safety of the process that would be used to extract the gas – if conditions were deemed right.

The unlikely team of Conservative MP Alun Cairns and Andy Chyba, the chairman of the Bridgend Green Party, both raised concerns about a technique called 'hydraulic fracturing' or 'fracking' as it has come to be known.

Hydraulic fracturing involves pumping a mixture of sand, water and chemicals underground at high pressure to break up the shale and release the shale gas, which is then supposed to rise to the surface via the bore hole.

Mr Cairns said: "The process has been used in the US for many years and has resulted in gas and chemicals contaminating surface and ground water supplies.

"This is one of the most precious parts of south Wales and I find it difficult to believe that anyone would consider such an activity in such a sensitive area.

"It is close to the Heritage Coast and abuts areas of Grade 1 agricultural land, very little of which exists across Wales.

"The Tyndall Centre at Manchester University published a report earlier this year. Their analysis concluded the substances have toxic, carcinogenic or other hazardous properties."

Andy Chyba said: "The worst case scenario is that you are having these chemicals being pumped underground and they leak into aquifers or into groundwater."

A spokesman for Coastal Oil and Gas was reported this week as saying that the drilling was purely a test drilling, and that the company would come back with detailed proposals if it contemplated going any further.

Mr Cairns added: "I believe that the applicants, Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd, haven't even made contact with the local community to simply advise of their intentions.

"I have failed to find a website or telephone number and the postal address on the application relates to a Bridgend Business Centre location."

"This is worrying and I want to work with the local community and land owners to ensure that their voices are heard."

'Will Leader accept litter challenge?'

VALE Council leader Gordon Kemp has been challenged by a Llanmaes resident to tour roads between Llanmaes and Llysworney, and also the A48 to Bridgend, to see litter problems.

David Jones of Llanmaes, has been complaining about the increasing amounts of litter on the roadsides and verges, particularly near the Llandow Karting Centre.

He said that the problem then extends along the road to Atlantic College.

Mr Jones said that he has drawn it to the attention of council officers.

He originally received a reply from the Vale Council stating that a supervisor had visited the area and only found four items of litter.

The letter stated that someone from the waste management team had been in attendance.

But Mr Jones then replied that the area alongside the race track at Llandow on both sides was "festooned" with litter and he said that whoever told the council there was no litter was either in a different part of the Vale or oblivious to litter as a problem.

Mr Jones went out on his bike with a camera and sent pictures to the council.

He added: "After viewing these images, it must be apparent to you that there is a serious litter problem in the Llandow area."

He urged the council not to hide behind the mantle of economic cuts, and said it was not good enough for a council that proposed to be 'green'.

He urged the council to tackle the problem before spring growth covers it up, leaving litter to fester until it is exposed again next winter.

Mr Jones has now contacted Coun Kemp and invited him to take a car journey from Llantwit Major to Bridgend via Llysworney and the A48 with a view to litter spotting.

He went on: "You will be disappointed, maybe angry, maybe depressed to say the least, but you will surely demand action."

Coun Gordon Kemp said: "Further inspections are being carried out by waste management and cleansing officers and further correspondence will be sent to Mr Jones once these are completed. We are happy to arrange for Mr Jones to meet with one of our officers on site."

Vale Ramblers taste bracing air of Southerndown

THE Vale Ramblers met up at Llantwit Major railway station car park on a cool, grey Sunday morning last month.

Inland, the temperature didn't seem too cold, but once the group moved to the start of the walk at the top car park near Southerndown Beach, the bracing sea air woke everyone up.

As quickly as possible, the 14 ramblers put on their walking gear and moved off under the leadership of Kathy Phillips.

Along the trail, the group was joined by Margaret, chair of the Vale Ramblers, who has just returned from Australia, where she has spent two months with her family.

She had wisely decided to do only part of the walk as she is still recovering from jet lag. Her tales of temperatures around 40 degrees and of walking in shorts and sandals had many wishing they had been with her!

There is a local legend which says that as you drive under a particular bridge on the route, a ghost gets into the back seat of your car, cadging a lift up the hill to where he used to live. Everyone inspected the next few cars that passed but no-one saw any ghostly apparitions!

Spring is definitely on its way and we saw the evidence. After walking down a muddy lane between two hedges back to Southerndown, the group moved carefully through fields containing new born lambs, who were eager to get out of the way, running back to their mothers for reassurance and milk.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Vale Ramblers should go to the website www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk where under the heading 'walks' there is a link to this season's walks programme. We are already looking forward to the summer; the new programme will be available in the next few weeks.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Vale MP's surgery

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, will be holding advice surgeries on Friday, March 4, at the following locations: 1.30pm – 3pm at the Citizens Advice Bureau offices, 119 Broad Street, Barry; 4pm – 5.30pm at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend. Call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

PACT MEETINGS

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, March 4 at 2pm;
COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, March 10 at 7pm;
RHOOSE PACT, Fox and Hounds public house, Llancarfan, March 6, at 3pm;
ST ATHAN, The Gathering Place on March 6, from 2pm–4pm;
PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY, coffee and chat meeting, Three Horseshoes public house, March 7 at 11am;
PENDOYLAN Community Council meeting, Pendoylan school, March 10 at 7.45pm;
PLYMOUTH PACT, Brockhill Way Community Centre on March 9, 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

SWOOSH TEAM ARE A 'CREDIT TO THE VALE'

Swoosh members.

FIVE members of the Swoosh editorial group in the Vale travelled by bus to Anglesey to take part in the annual CLIConline residential weekend (February 18-20).

Swoosh.me.uk, part of the CLIConline network, offers advice and information to young people aged 11-25 throughout the Vale, and holds monthly editorial group meetings where young people are given the opportunity to steer the website and its content.

Users can upload their own stories, images and events, share them on Facebook and Twitter and comment on stories that matter to them.

The five: *Chloe Parris, Chloe Webber, Adam Phillips, Chrissi Tsenti and Olivia Williams* took part in team building, website development exercises and creative activities.

Swoosh editor Dominique LeSauteur, praised their maturity and hard work over the challenging weekend.

"These five young people from the Swoosh editorial group in the Vale were extremely excited about the CLIConline residential in Anglesey.

"It was an opportunity to meet likeminded young people from all corners of Wales; to find out more about the regional websites; to shares their views, ideas and experiences; as well as have lots of fun!

"The 10-hour coach journey was worth every second just to see to positivity shown by these individuals from the Vale and others from across the country."

Residents 'confused' by scheme

MANY Vale residents have been left confused since the introduction of the kitchen waste scheme, a councillor claimed this week.

Coun Richard Bertin (independent) said: "It has meant that waste and recycling has been left on the streets for days as residents try to guess which is the right day for collection."

He is to ask a question at full council calling for better information to be provided to residents.

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Son threatens to burn down mum's house

AJ SICLUNA

A YOUNG man has been given a suspended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court for threatening to burn down his mother's home..

He told her: "I'm going to get somebody to do your house, and I'm going to burn it down with you in it."

Mark Burnett (21) of Bridgend, pleaded guilty before Vale magistrates to threatening to commit criminal damage and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was jailed for a year, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

A restraining order was also imposed, preventing him from approaching his mother.

She had told the court earlier: "He badly needs help to control his anger. He never actually started a fire, and afterwards he said he was sorry. I'll try my best to help him. He has never assaulted me, but he has frightened me."

She did not reveal her latest address.

Prosecutor Rebecca Griffiths said there had been "domestic problems" with Burnett.

At around 11.15am on January 10, Burnett went to his mother's home in Bridgend and stood on the doorstep calling her a slut and a bitch.

"He was very angry," said Ms Griffiths.

At the house were his mother and his brother, and they were aware of Burnett kicking the front door and they feared it would cave in.

He was repeatedly asked to leave, refused and said: "I'm going to get somebody to do your house and I am going to burn it down with you in it."

He left, but his mother believed he was capable of carrying out the threat.

In an impact statement, she told the police she could not carry on with such an experience, and now wished to leave the area.

She added: "I'm having to look over my shoulder all the time," and said she was in constant fear.

Burnett told the police that his relationship with his mother was sometimes good, sometimes not, and claimed that she had insulted him.

The court was told that he admitted that while in custody, he had said: "I've got to get out of here, I've got houses to burn down."

He also said that if he was released on bail, he would obtain petrol and burn down the house.

He was said to have convictions for 11 offences, three of which related to his mother and involved criminal damage and affray, and threatening to damage property by burning down her house.

His counsel, Peter Harding-Roberts, said: "He has significant health problems."

He said that when he met him before the hearing, he was "quiet, calm, polite and respectful." He added: "His behaviour didn't match that of the offence, and he informed me that he loves his mother to bits."

Mr Harding-Roberts said she had tried to visit him when on remand, but was not allowed to.

"He accepts he needs help, specifically from a psychologist, and he has an insight into his explosive anger. Many people say ridiculous things which they do not mean.

"If the court sends him to prison, what good would it do? He is a genuinely very, very unhappy young man and he has inflicted injury upon himself.

"He feels he is in a cycle of hopelessness."

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Vale AM is set to meet new Ambulance chief

THE Vale's Assembly Member has arranged a meeting with the regional director of the Ambulance Service following the case of a 92-year-old woman who had to wait for almost two hours for an ambulance.

The woman, who fell over in a Cowbridge supermarket last month, had fractured her hip and needed an operation.

At the time Vale AM Jane Hutt said she had been shocked by how long the woman had been forced to wait.

Ms Hutt said:

"After calling for an urgent meeting with the new regional director Nick Smith, I can confirm that I will be meeting with the Ambulance Service along with Coun Gwyn John, on March 16 and will report back on the outcome."

Coun John from Llantwit Major visited the Ambulance Service HQ in Cwmbran last year, and said that at the time response times in the Vale appeared to be improving.

However, he told The GEM that the latest case might be a sign that things were slipping back.

Coun John favours a 'rural Vale emergency dispatch point' with two ambulances available because the Vale is out on a limb.

The Ambulance Service has said it will not comment on individual cases, but if a family contacts them, they will be happy to discuss a particular case.

Farmers' efforts raise cash for two worthy charities

A TOTAL of £2,000 has been split and donated to two Welsh charities – thanks to NFU Cymru members in Glamorgan.

Representatives from the Stroke Association, Wales, and Velindre Hospital were presented with a £1,000 cheque at the recent Glamorgan NFU Cymru County conference.

On presenting the cheques, Andrew Oliver, Glamorgan NFU Cymru County chairman said: "On behalf of Glamorgan NFU Cymru, I am privileged to be able to present these cheques to two worthwhile causes.

"A special thank you must go to all NFU Cymru members and staff in Glamorgan who have over the past 12 months organised and taken part in many events, including a golf day and a NFU Cymru county luncheon."

ABOVE and RIGHT: Andrew Oliver presents cheques to Bridget Stadden, the Stroke Association's fundraising manager for Wales, and Andrew Morris, head of fundraising at Velindre Hospital.

YOUNGSTERS BESIEGE RUGBY STARS IN LEEKES STORE SIGNING

TWO Welsh rugby stars were kept busy at Leekes' Llantrisant store last week, signing autographs for a host of young admirers.

Props Adam Jones and Gethin Jenkins popped into the store last Thursday, for the event held in association with Under Armour, to celebrate the RBS 6 Nations Championship.

The young fans visited the store as part of their half term rugby session with Fairplay Rugby, which works with local schools and communities to encourage children between the ages of 6–10 to take part in fun rugby sessions.

Jon Bunyan, organiser of Fairplay Rugby, commented: "This was a great opportunity for the youngsters to meet two of today's rugby greats. You could see they were really inspired to meet Adam and Gethin and they played with renewed vigour when we got back on the pitch in the afternoon!"

Store manager, Glyn Morgan, said: "We had a great turnout on the day, lots of local people came along to get Adam and Gethin's signatures on their rugby memorabilia. It was great to welcome rugby fans into the store and to see so many boys and girls getting involved in our nation's game."

PICTURED, left to right: Olivia Enoch, Kate Workman, Adam Jones, Iwan Price-Thomas, Lloyd Wilkins and Gethin Jenkins.

St. John's-on-the-Hill

A Word from the Head'

At St. John's, we believe that education is much more than academic achievement.

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We understand and value every child for their individuality so our approach to childcare in the Nurseries reflects this philosophy. We want to make sure that each child is nurtured and their capabilities are fostered so that they enjoy school and build on their successes.

Children from 3 months to pre-school age enjoy a relaxed, caring environment, surrounded by a fully qualified team. Our mission is to ensure that every single child is given the opportunity to realise their full potential, this process begins in the Nursery with children learning through play in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for learning.

Children attending any of our three Day Nurseries are guaranteed a place in the Pre-Prep Department at St. John's in Tutshill, Chepstow, where they continue to learn in a number of different ways. They learn to swim in our own swimming pool, dance and act in the Hall, learn to count, read, use a computer with time outside of the classroom taking part in play, sport and exercise and learning about nature in our beautiful surroundings.

Family values are an integral part of life at St. John's. Our boarding house is family-run providing a real 'home from home'. Children learn to live, work, share and play together, learning how to grow up being kind and considerate to others. Having mentors in our older pupils is a natural way of learning this for our younger children.

Our senior school scholarship record speaks for itself. More than half of the children who leave us at the end of Year 8 do so with a scholarship to the senior school of their choice, testimony to our ability to prepare children fully for the next stage of their education.

St. John's welcomes children of all abilities and offers a range of scholarships and means-tested bursaries (up to 100%) to ensure that a wide spectrum of youngsters can enjoy the benefit of an independent preparatory school education.

The next Open Morning takes place in Tutshill, Chepstow on Saturday 12th March from 9.30am – 12 noon. All welcome. If you would like further details, please contact Mrs Anne Etchells, Registrar on 01291 622045. E-mail: registrar@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk or visit the website: www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

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Judge compliments standard of Heritage Coast competition

ALAN SHEPHERD of Gwynfa Camera Club judged Barry Camera Club's annual set subject competition, 'The Heritage Coast', something he felt passionate about and had studied photographically many times.

Alan's judging was consistent and accurate, and our entries impressed him.

In the monochrome print category, in third place was *Toward Traeth Beach* by Rob Owens – a classic shot of cliffs. In joint third place was *Near Llantwit Major Beach* by Hugh Winnan – a dramatic and very interesting shot.

In second place was *Digging For Lugworms* by Steve Durbin – taken at a low level, showing two men busy digging for lugworms.

The winner was *On The Beach* by Rob Owens – lighting conditions made this an evocative and memorable image.

In the colour print category, in third place was *Llantwit Major Sunset* by Barbra Archdale-Smith – a study of Llantwit Major beach and cliffs.

In joint third place was *Nash Point Face* by Steve Durbin – a low angled shot of rock and cliffs.

In second place was *Merthyr Mawr View* by Jamie Archdale-Smith – coastal view across the bracken and Ogmore river estuary towards Merthyr Mawr.

In first place was *Llantwit Major 1* by Rob Owens – beautiful wet boulders showing details of seaweed and wet sand.

In the projected images category, in joint third place was *Rhoose Point* by Mike Lewis – Triassic cliffs with the beach and sea as the centre of interest.

Also in third place was *The Old Lighthouse, Marcross* by Mike Lewis – a simple, but effective, shot. In second place was *The Knap* by Noel Taylor – a beautiful image with a moody, brooding sky.

The winner was *Towards Breaksea Point* by Brian Trego – a black and white projected image, with magnificent atmosphere and tension.

Chairman Steve Durbin gave a vote of thanks to Alan for his well considered comments, decisions, time and efforts.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX. New members are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join.

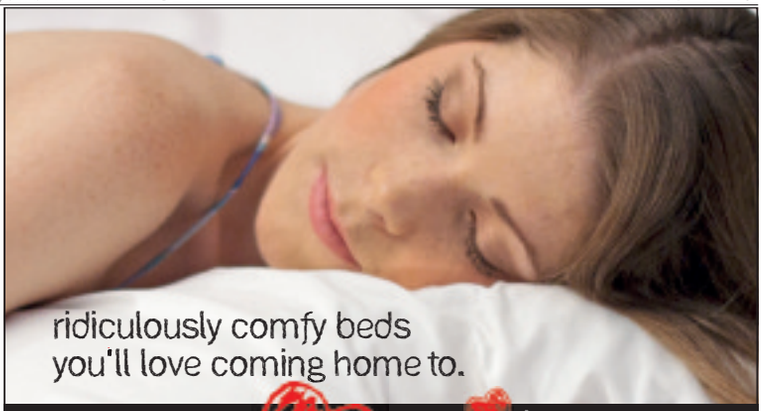
Barbra Archdale-Smith

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D659.

- **The rollover, which now stands at £500, was not won.**
- **£2,000:** 251470.
- **£10:**133983; 436050; 795526; 190915; 656426; 838685; 200523; 248327; 786738; 678090; 254906; 412205; 564451; 198532; 407556; 452565; 622160; 469692; 440588; 860732.
- **£5:** 296395; 575418; 120571; 569922; 450508; 130467; 807587; 500381; 693907; 879196; 994602; 143654; 610560; 572049; 357812; 229122; 123137; 388758; 357457; 824863; 756983; 568408; 373863; 831619; 850375; 259239; 251753; 178200; 988419; 421667; 602823; 429038; 257582; 748213; 245077; 542308; 571526; 556360; 442269; 380503; 635110; 753958; 439809; 876413; 616141; 793295; 171761; 735488; 489552; 494733; 816587; 358322; 899054; 249436; 585095; 934097; 329224; 752808; 674755; 634381.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.n*For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.*



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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Happy ending to a tense situation in chaotic Libya

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

THE return of Richard Foscolo from Libya heralded one of the most frustrating and satisfying weeks since I was elected last year.

It was an extremely tense time. Angie Foscolo and her family were worried, alarmed and anxious about Richard, who was stranded in Ghani, a Libyan desert oilfield.

My first contact with Angie Foscolo came on Tuesday afternoon when she tried to contact me at the House of Commons.

As it was half-term, my time was more flexible and thankfully, I had more opportunity to chase various people about the issues. Clearly by Tuesday evening, the situation was getting worse.

The only contact the family had managed to make with Richard over a 48-hour period was a two-minute telephone conversation and a short e-mail from his friend's computer.

The communication links with the desert oil field were negligible – to both the family and to the Embassy in Tripoli.

It was obvious to the family that although Richard maintained he was well and not troubled; they could tell that he was extremely worried.

From conversations with the Foreign Office and Richard's employer, we had calculated that security personnel had left the site. We had received reports of looting – where computers and mobile phones were being stolen and we were concerned that normal communications for food and drink were running low.

By Wednesday, we felt that the only way to increase the pressure was to use the press and media.

Angie Foscolo is a very private person and to champion an issue on UK News was well outside her comfort zone but she did amazingly well.

She pressed all the right buttons to draw attention.

Local and UK newspapers and network television covered the events, increasing pressure on Richard's employers and the Foreign Office.

I spoke countless times to the Foreign Office and communicated with the Minister directly.

By Thursday evening, a network television company received an anonymous call to say that Richard had been transported to Tripoli. A few hours later a similar message came from elsewhere. Was the news too good to be true?

Calls to the Foreign Office wouldn't confirm anything, although we were optimistic from the tone of their responses. Without confirmation, we decided to keep it to ourselves until it was confirmed.

At 3.30am, Angie received a call from Richard, who had landed in Gatwick. We were ecstatic!

The series of events were nothing short of a rollercoaster. I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to Angie and Richard, to their parents and to their wider family for the way they handled themselves; no panic, just persistence and a determination to draw attention to those who at that time had been ignored by the FCO.

I have no doubt that Angie, Richard and family played a significant part in forcing the government to change tack and to ensure that the Prime Minister and William Hague took personal control.

There are many lessons to learn and I highlighted the Foscolo case on the floor of the House of Commons earlier this week.

The PM recognised the facts and said that he would make changes to the system.

Win tickets for the big Wales v England match at the Millennium Stadium!

THE Glamorgan GEM has teamed up with McDonald's restaurant franchisee Huw Thomas to offer a pair of match tickets to watch the sell-out Wales vs England football game at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Saturday, March 26 at 3pm, as the two rivals play each other for the 100th time.

Huw Thomas runs the Cardiff Road McDonald's restaurant in Barry, and will be cheering on the Welsh national team as they battle it out in this highly anticipated UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying match – and now you could be a part of the action too!

The two sides last met in 2005, and being such a highly anticipated game, the match is already sold out, with both sets of fans making the journey to Wales' national stadium to watch the teams compete for the vital three points.

McDonald's has been the community partner of the Welsh FA and the Welsh Football Trust since 2002 and supports the FAW Club Accreditation Programme and the FAW Football Leaders Award – both initiatives aim to provide quality grassroots football through improved coaching and facilities for clubs across Wales.

Ian Rush, McDonald's director of Welsh football said: "Next to being on the field playing, there's nothing quite like sitting in the stands among thousands of other passionate fans, watching a game live. That atmosphere is even more electric when the two teams are Wales and England. I've got no doubt that the lucky winner will have a great time – let's just hope The Dragons win!"

McDonald's franchisee, Huw Thomas, said: "As a fan of Welsh football, I'm pleased to be able to offer one lucky winner two tickets to this historic game.

"As a proud supporter of McDonald's Football Accreditation Scheme, which helps to develop grassroots football in the area, I hope it's not too long before we see more players from Barry make our national team!"

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets, simply answer the following question: ***Who is Wales' all-time top goalscorer at international level?***

The first correct answer to be randomly selected will be notified that they have won on or before Friday, March 11 (Closing date March 10).

Media Partner Prize Promotion Provisions

1. *Rules: Please note that, in addition to these provisions, entrants are bound by both the promoter's T&C's (available on request) and the Supplemental Rules for Third Party Promotions Featuring Football-Themed Prizes Supplied by McDonald's (General Rules) at www.mcdonalds.co.uk/policies/football-terms-and-conditions.shtml*

2. *Participants: Must be 18 and over and UK resident.*

3. *Duration of Promotion: Enter the promotion between 9am, March 3 2011 and 5pm, March 9, 2011 inclusive.*

4. *Entry Criteria: Answer a question correctly to be entered into a draw to win a pair of tickets to the specified match.*

5. *Conditions of entry: Limit of one entry per person.*

6. *How to submit your entry: Entries will be accepted by email to gem-sales@internet-today.co.uk or by post to: Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. No other method of entry will be accepted.*

7. *Prizes: The prize pool consists of a pair of match tickets to the Wales vs England match at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, March 26 at 3pm. Winners will be required to make their own transport arrangements to and from the game. See www.mcdonalds.co.uk/policies/football-terms-and-conditions.shtml for the General Rules and more details of the prizes and prize-conditions.*

8. *Prize Awards: The prize draw will be held on or before March 10. Prizes will be dispatched to winners by post within 14 days of the closing date for entries.*

9. *Notification of winners: Winning entrants will be notified by telephone and / or email and should be contactable no later than Friday 11th March. Prize notification will be sent by email to the address registered at time of entry. If the winner cannot be contacted by telephone before 3pm on Friday, March 11, 2011, an alternative winner will be selected.*

10. *General: Winners may be required for promotional and media activity.*

11. *Promoter: Glamorgan GEM.*

12. *Promoter's details: Glamorgan GEM Promotions Department, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.*

Penarth launches Welsh 'RE' celebration month

RELIGIOUS education in Wales was celebrated at a launch in Stanwell School, Penarth, yesterday (Wednesday).

Hundreds of events have been planned, designed to showcase the value of quality religious education as part of the initiative, 'Celebrating RE'.

Vale Council leader and chair of Vale of Glamorgan SACRE, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "We're delighted that the Welsh launch of the 'Celebrating RE' month is taking place in the Vale. We are very committed to SACRE and have been discussing the event for some time."

A 'Celebrating RE' song was written by Welsh composer, Pwyll ap Siôn to link together young people from across Wales and England.

Both the English version (Place of Trust) and the Welsh version (Hafan Ffydd) have been released by Sain, and feature popular Welsh singers Dafydd Dafis and Eleri Fôn with a choir from Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor.

Mayor's coffee

AS part of celebrations for International Women's Day, Cowbridge Mayor Coun Len Taylor's charity coffee morning this Saturday, March 5, from 10.30am-12.30pm, will be in aid of Atal y Fro, which helps families break the cycle of domestic violence.

Floral society

BARRY Floral Society meets next at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 8 at 2.15pm.

Mrs Janet Davies of Abergavenny will give a demonstration entitled 'Wait and See'.

New members are always welcome.

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GLAMORGAN GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'No consultation' over school crossing patrol officers...

I SHOULD like to comment about the Conservative Vale Council's decision to terminate the contracts of the school crossing patrol officers in Cadoxton, Dinas Powys and Penarth.

No local councillors were informed that this would happen and neither were the parents or the governors of the schools. Until now, I had hoped that commonsense would prevail and thought it better to try and get the four crossing patrol officers contracts reinstated, rather than commenting to the press.

I have had meetings with council officers and had hoped to keep these patrol officers in place at least until the end of this school year.

This would have allowed health and safety and an impact assessment to be carried out at the sites, and to have consultation with the schools and parents if these manned crossing patrols were to be withdrawn.

I also asked a question at the Vale's full council meeting. Initially, the Leader announced that there would be no cuts in school crossing patrols, but when I had a full response from Coun Jeffrey James, the cabinet member responsible, he claimed that there would be no redundancies and that no person was losing their job, they were just not having their temporary contract renewed.

So it's clear in Conservative speak that when a contract is terminated there is no job loss – I think not!

I am sure the people of Cadoxton, Dinas Powys and Penarth would agree that not having your temporary contract renewed, is in fact losing your job.

It appears that they are only on short term contracts because they are over 65 years of age, but no account has been taken of their length in service.

I understand the school crossing patrol officer at Cadoxton has been in post for over 35 years and one of the officers in Dinas Powys has been in post for nearly 30 years.

Coun James tried to justify the decisions by claiming that the schools involved would be offered a 'mobile crossing patrol service' but there are only two mobile officers in the county and they will have to recruit more before they can do that.

In any case, if there is no need for a permanent patrol officer why are they going to put mobile ones there instead? Why not keep the status quo?

It is clear that this council has nothing but contempt for the staff, parents and children concerned.

Coun Neil Moore (Labour)
Barry

'CAREFUL HOW YOU VOTE'
– Vale Council tenants are urged

IN the next few weeks Vale Council tenants will be asked if they want to continue with the council, or have housing transferred to Heritage Coast Homes.

We have concerns that the tenants have not been given a balanced view of all the options, particularly the one of staying with the council.

We feel that the council has not fully explained and explored all the options, so there are some points we would like to draw to your attention.

● Extra services are promised in the offer document, but with an unspecified cost to the tenants. When will these services be delivered? Might the cost be unaffordable to the tenants?

● The council cannot take back the housing stock, once it is transferred to Heritage Coast Homes there is no turning back.

● Your councillor may have less power to intervene on your behalf. At the moment, councillors can contact senior officers directly. With this new organisation, the close link between councillor and officer would be broken.

The link is better when the officer is an employee of the council and the councillor the employer.

● Some services are promised by Heritage Coast Homes that you have already. The council is already committed to getting rid of anti-social behaviour. It is expert at this and regularly liaises with the police.

● Your repairs and replacements are already free, eg new boilers, new doors, windows, roofs etc.

● The council has committed Heritage Coat Homes to replace some housing, but where are the 200 houses that are going to be pulled down? What will happen to the families in those demolished homes?

Whatever tenants decide, they can be assured that we will always help them; but we believe that there are two sides to this important issue and that this Conservative-controlled council has produced a heavily one-sided account in favour of stock transfer, which we are not in favour of.

If tenants have had a good service from the council over the many years, we urge them to consider carefully before casting their vote.

(Members of the Vale Labour group)
Vale of Glamorgan Council

FINAL MISSION

THE ship which rescued British evacuees from Libya was on its way home to be scrapped, together with three others, one of which had just had a year-long refit. ***So much for the Strategic Defence Review!***

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This scheme is run in partnership with your local authority

DINAS POWYS

"The SMALL COMMUNITY with a BIG HEART"

ABOVE:Mark Griffith has customers from Dinas Powys, Barry and Sully – and one regular all the way from Oxford!

by TIM CHAPMAN

DINAS POWYS is a village that prides itself on the wide variety of shops and services it provides – and not only in all the family essentials, but specialist areas, too.

The importance of a local shopping provision was demonstrated during the snowfalls in the run-up to Christmas when local traders struggled in to make sure people were properly supplied.

Jan Mapstone, who has run Valley View Fruit Stores with husband Tony for 14 years, explained: "During the snow we got up extra early – we live in Cardiff – and dug ourselves out to make sure we were in on time.

"We didn't miss a day because we didn't want to let people down. People said how valuable the store was.

"During that time we were particularly helpful to elderly people and people stranded at home.

"Normally we do four to five deliveries a day – at that time we were up to 14 or 15! One night we were still here at 8pm to make sure everyone got what they needed."

For Jan and Tony it is a seven day labour of love, opening at 8am Monday to Friday, half an hour earlier on Saturdays and at 9am on Sundays.

Although the shop stocks hundreds of products, including a large selection of groceries and an exhaustive array of fresh vegetables displayed in front of the premises, Jan takes pride in sourcing whatever the customer wants.

"We are sometimes looked upon as a quirky shop because if people ask about something they have seen in the past we will see if we can get it for them again."

For example, the sweet selection is a throw back to many people's youths – 130 varieties – which includes peach jellies, sour apple cubes, chocolate mice, liquorice torpedoes, and so on!

Jan's suppliers are often local too – Willowbank Produce and Sunnycroft Farm Foods in Barry, Bruton's and Clark's Pies based in Grangetown, and specialist cakes arrive first thing in the morning from Penarth Bakery.

Family businesses are one of the strengths of Dinas Powys – Huw Evans took over Budgens on Cardiff Road from his father-in-law Jay Patel, who was a popular businessman in the village during his 18 year tenure of the store.

PRIZE SERVICE

Huw said: "Jay still likes to pop in for a couple of mornings a week, so local people still see him from time to time."

Like Jan and Tony, for Huw, Budgens is a seven day a week business, although he does find time to play rugby for Cathays RFC in the Cardiff and District League on Saturday afternoons.

"We open at 6am from Mondays to Saturdays, at 7am on Sundays, and are open until 9pm, although we will be increasing the hours to 10pm in a couple of weeks time."

One of Huw's prize services is the on site bakery.

"We do bread, baguettes, muffins, doughnuts, croissants and confectionery lines – sometimes people are surprised that items are still warm because they thought we'd buy them in.

"The store is not just for top-up shopping – people can do a full shop here."

There's fresh meat and produce, all the essentials like milk, bread, cheeses, tinned foods, tea, coffee, ready meals, cereals, pet food, household products, and a great display of beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks.

"Most of our customers are local Dinas people, but we have a strong 'through trade' with people off to work from Barry to places like Pontypool picking up their snacks and papers on the way – or people coming in the other direction."

SPECIALIST

One characteristic of traders in Dinas Powys is that they have time to devote to people – it's not a case of taking money and on with the next customer.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

ABOVE: Jan Mapstone of Valley View Fruit Stores receiving a delivery from Penarth Bakery.

ABOVE: Kate and Mandy from Bank of Flowers, will brighten up your day!

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Dinas Powys homes 'most expensive'

TWYNCYN in Dinas Powys, tops a list of 10 of Wales' most costly streets to live on.

The average house price on Twyncyn, CF64, has been valued at £838,700 according to 'The Mouseprice' annual street rankings survey 2011.

As last year's number three, the road has been described as "leafy" and is near Dinas Powys golf club.

Figures from the survey revealed that the average house price of the top ten streets in Wales is £648,410, a fall from last year's statistic of £676,320.

The only property not from south Wales on the list was Llys Helyg Drive in Llandudno, which ranked second place.

Cefn Coed Road in Cardiff was listed third most expensive, with an average property value of £715,000. It has the "attractive advantage" of easy links to the countryside and coast.

Vale councillor Geoffrey Cox said community was an important factor in the Vale's appeal.

The rest of the streets in descending order were: St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys; Cefn Mably Road, Lisvane; Church Road, Llanblethian; Millwood, Lisvane; Mill Road, Llanishen; Westminster Crescent, Cardiff, and Howells Crescent, Cardiff.

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DINAS POWYS

"The SMALL COMMUNITY with a BIG HEART"

ABOVE: Huw Evans with Budgens bakery selection. The wide variety of products means local families can do a full shop at the Cardiff Road supermarket.

ABOVE: Guitars to the stars! Tim from TC Ellis Guitars - one of their designed basses is heading into the hands of Lemmy from Motorhead!

ABOVE: Lifestyle Furniture and Kitchens on Cardiff Road offers affordable bedroom, dining and lounge furniture – along with stylish ornaments.

ABOVE: The Cenotaph in the 'old village' area of Dinas Powys.

Dinas has something for everyone

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

Mark Griffith, the family butcher, has worked in the village for 34 years, and along with Dave Williams and Michael Billings-Wakely, provides a service with lots of laughs and banter.

"People are more friends than customers. We get to know them all by their first names."

Mark provides choice meats – beef, chicken, lamb, steaks, pork, gammon, pies, eggs, and a selection of flavoured sausages and burgers made on the premises.

His products are from all parts of Wales – lamb from St Clare's, eggs from Newport, and Caer Emlyn turkeys from Whitland – which were voted 'Great Britain's tastiest!'

"We supply the local school and also do the Dickensian Fair."

It will not surprise anyone that Mark, Dave and Michael have a loyal clientele from Dinas, Sully and Barry, but this will amaze people...

"We've got a regular customer from Oxford – Mrs Brown. Every time she drops her grandchildren back to Dinas at the end of a holiday, she pops in so she can stock up. She comes about four times a year."

Specialist shops are a big feature of Dinas – and one local shop TC Ellis Guitars at Camm's Corner can boast of an association with rock royalty.

Owner Tim Ellis said: "Tim Butcher, my colleague, and I make guitars for Motorhead. We're just getting a new bass ready for Lemmy."

The two Tims deal in mainly electric guitars, custom building them and offering repairs, although they do have acoustic ones too.

Tim explained: "Some people can pay £2,000 to £3,000 on an electric guitar, but we can start people up for £750 and upwards. It means a professional set-up, quality tone woods and all the advice someone needs for their playing style."

ALADDIN'S CAVE

Another specialist shop is Lifestyle Furniture and Kitchens run by Lynne and Peter Ellis which offers every sort of interior furniture you could need – kitchens, dining sets, mattresses and beds, reclining chairs, wardrobes, coffee tables, rugs, mirrors, bookcases – and even a juke box.

The prices are keen with a single divan bed at £79, a four draw divan at £279 and a metal single bed at £69.

A beautiful rustic dining table is just £399. Lifestyle Furniture is also an Aladdin's cave for people who want ornamental pieces to enhance their rooms.

The strength of local businesses can be shown by the fact that Mark Daniell is about to celebrate the 21st anniversary of Head to Head Hairdressers and Barbers.

Conveniently located in the heart of Dinas Powys square, all the stylists are highly trained and receive ongoing training.

Mark and his staff provide a comprehensive service from Monday to Saturday for women and men, complete with all the latest styles and techniques, and there is a price list to suit everyone.

ABOVE: Mark Daniell and the staff of Head to Head, are celebrating the business's 21st anniversary.

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Budgens Large Fresh Chicken, 1.75kg, (£2.29/kg) • Budgens Baby Parsnips, 230g, ~~£1.49,~~ (£4.35/kg), Budgens Prepacked Carrots, 1.25kg, (80p/kg), Budgens Organic White mushrooms, 250g, ~~£1.39,~~ (£4/kg) Budgens Mandarins, 6 pack, ~~£1.25,~~ (16.7p each), Gourmet Garden Basil, Chunky Garlic, Coriander, Ginger Spice, Hot Chilli, Lemon Grass, 80g ~~£1.69,~~ (£1.25/100g) • Kingsmill TastyWholemeal Medium, Thick, 800g (12.5/100g)
Some offers may not be available at all stores; some prices may vary and some higher prices may not have been charged at all stores. These products were on sale at the higher price in at least 23 of our 192 stores. Prices are correct at the time of going to print. Offers not available in Budgens Express/selected Budgens Quickstop. E & OE. All products subject to availability. Alcohol sold to 18's and over only. BUDP3
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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

The Vale Family Support Services *Action for Children*

WHO are we? We are a local project run by Action for Children, a leading voluntary organisation.

Action for children work towards making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people.

Where are we? We are based in Cardiff Road, Barry. Our services are used by families across the Vale of Glamorgan.

What do we do? We offer family intervention – to support families to stay together, working with them to find their own solutions to cope with daily life, through difficulties and crisis.

We offer a service for young carers – to support young people who care for a relative at home, by providing advice, respite, activities and peer support.

We offer a safe and supportive environment for families, separated from their children, to have contact with each other.

Why your help is important. *All donations will help us to maximise our opportunities to increase support to the most vulnerable children and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan.*

Springtime with Beauty Clinic

WITH spring arriving, now is the time to prepare your body ready to complement your spring wardrobe.

Start by exfoliating your skin with one of the many treatments available at The Beauty clinic or treat yourself to a back facial, which is on offer during March.

Indulge in a California spray tan – the safest way to look better!

Enjoy a pedicure ready for summer sandals, with nail art available for toes and fingers; and don;t forget waxing for legs and bikini line.

Go bling with your bikini line and treat yourself to a special gem design.

Call in to The Beauty Clinic, High Street, Barry, or telephone 01446 743222 for an appointment.

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Film sale to aid Ty Hafan

A YOUNG Barry film-maker has put on sale his award-winning film about Barry Island, with proceeds going to Ty Hafan hospice

Michael J Moore is in his third year of a BA Hons documentary film course at the University of Wales, Newport.

He told The GEM: "Last year, I completed a documentary that dealt with the issues of Barry Island, and also its history.

"I screened the film to the local action group FOCUSBarry and then went on to win an award at the International Youth Film Festival.

"Recently, I won another award, this time the factual award at the Ffresh Film Festival. I have now completed the DVD case.

"Marco's Cafe and the Harbour arcade will be selling the copies and I will also be asking others if they would be willing to do the same."

He added: "The film will be £4 a copy and is supporting the children's charity Ty Hafan."

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(Telephone: 01656 725219)***

Whisky gives you fun galore!

THIS WEEK: Linda Feagan highlights Whisky is a Cairn Terrier.

He is lots of fun, and is enjoying his training with us, and will need an owner who can continue with this. Before coming to us he had a sheltered life, so can be worried by new situations, but with calm, patient handling, Whisky's confidence and behaviour is improving greatly.

Although he enjoys socialising with other dogs while out and about, he will need to be the only dog in the home.

If you would like to offer Whisky a home, and can visit him a few times at the centre before rehoming him, he will make a rewarding and entertaining little companion.

Whisky is looking forward to meeting you soon!

Contact the centre on 01656 725219, or visit Court Colman,Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend. You can also see Whisky and some of his friend on our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk

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and make someone smile this Easter

We are collecting Easter Eggs to donate to:

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by Monday 18th April 2011

Vale Women's Business Network

Shout about your success!

Wednesday March 16, 2011

at Trio Brasserie, Cowbridge, 6.30 - 9pm

Guests and non-members are most welcome!
(Guest Membership for this event is £6)
Please email members@vwbn.org.uk to book

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Shout about your success!

ARE you award-winning material? Do you know how to impress a panel of judges?

Do you know that if your evidence is poor you won't get the credit you deserve – no matter how good your story is?

This month, the VWBN look forward to welcoming UK Business Advisor of the year and holder of a Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, Janet Scicluna.

Janet successfully runs her own business, supporting individuals setting up in business, and has been instrumental in assisting over 1,000 new business start-ups across south-east Wales.

Please join us and find out why more women should be encouraged to go for national awards.

Please contact us to book for this event on March 16 at members@vwbn.org.uk. For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact members@vwbn.org.uk

Salon director in line for top beauty award

LEIGHARNE PHILIPS, salon director of The Hair Business of Cowbridge has been nominated for the Welsh Women Mean Business Awards (WWMB) 2011.

She is a finalist in the best woman in beauty category, sponsored by Ken Picton and the Cardiff Dental Practice.

Leigharne launched the Hair Business in 1992, with three staff, but today employs a team of 22.

The awards, which are sponsored by Gocompare.com for the second year will take place in the week of International Women's Day.

There are 12 categories in this year's awards including best business leader, young Welsh female entrepreneur, best female business newcomer and the Joshua Foundation memorial prize for outstanding contribution from a Welsh businesswoman in the field of charity work.

The awards will be combined with fundraising for WWMB's adopted charity, The Joshua Foundation, which provides holidays and experiences for children with terminal cancer.

The ceremony will take place at the Vale Resort and Spa on March 11, hosted by Jason Harrold. Guest speaker is Allegra McEvedy MBE, chef, writer, broadcaster and co-founder of the LEON restaurants.

Nostalgic play for the PODS director

EXACTLY 70 years ago, Noel Coward wrote and directed *Blithe Spirit* in the West End of London, and it is a proud time for Penarth Operatic & Dramatic Society director, Margaret Donaldson, who had played the part of Ruth in 1982.

Blithe Spirit tells the story of a dinner party at the home of Charles and Ruth Condomine. Charles is looking for material for his latest book, so invites local medium Madam Arcati to hold a séance.

Unfortunately, Madam Arcati contacts his first wife Elvira, who causes a good deal of trouble for poor Charles, his present wife Ruth and their dinner guests.

The society will perform Blithe Spirit at The Paget Rooms, Penarth, from March 16-19 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £8 adults, £7 concessions available on 029 2071 2260, or by calling at The Tenovus Cancer Charity shop Windsor Road, Penarth.

Penarth Operatic & Dramatic Society

Charity No. 1059300. Entertaining the community since 1924

Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit

at the Paget Rooms, Penarth

Wednesday, 16th - Saturday 19th March 2011

Doors open 7 pm - Curtain up 7.30pm
Licensed Bar

Ticket Prices: £8 adult; £7 concessions

Tickets from Tenovus Charity Shop
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Reduced prices for parties of 12 or more

Many thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan for its grant

Bridgend planning

*Andrew H Callaghan – **2 Church Place, Porthcawl** – new kitchen extension and garage together with internal refurbishment works.*

*Mr James Watkins – **12 Bryn Henfaes, Broadlands, Bridgend** – convert garage into living room.*

*Mr Keith Williams – **13 The Green Avenue, Porthcawl** – proposed dining room extension.*

*Mrs A Stroud – **r/o St Michael's Road and Morris Street, Maesteg** – erect block of six garages.*

*Miss NJ Baker – **Forge Cottage, 1 Lougher Row, Porthcawl** – rear first floor extension.*

*Creation Developments Ltd – **land adj Ogmore Vale Primary School, Aber Road, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend** – new Ogmore childcare centre.*

*Mr D Butcher – **19 Parcau Road, Bridgend** – regularise single storey side garage extension, rear conservatory and first floor extension.*

YSGOL IOLO PUPILS CELEBRATE WEEK OF WELSH CULTURE IN COWBRIDGE!

PICTURES by MIKE WILCOCK

• *As can be seen, these patriotic children clearly revel in their Welsh heritage!*

ST DAVID'S celebrations are being stretched over the whole week at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

On Monday, the children were treated to a show by Welsh performer Martin Geraint, while on Tuesday a wealth of activities was arranged by staff including folk dancing, Welsh stories and food tasting workshops.

All pupils had opportunities to join in the fun, literacy co-ordinator Catrin Brain said: "This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate our culture and our heritage. The children at the school realise the importance of St David's Day and are being taught the influential effect that the language has on society and long-term benefits of being totally bilingual."

The school's Welsh cultural week will be crowned by celebrations – a Fairtrade/St David's coffee morning in the School Hall on Friday morning.

Fairtrade cakes will be on sale for the children and Welsh cakes for the adults. Everyone has embraced the opportunity to get involved. The children's cooking club at the school even prepared the Welsh cakes for the coffee morning! Ysgol Iolo extends a warm welcome to all to their coffee morning tomorrow (March 4) at 9.15am. DE

PUPILS GET INTO THE DISCO SPIRIT

THE children at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School enjoyed their St Valentine celebrations recently.

Pupils designed and made greetings cards and the year-2 children practiced their sewing skills by making and decorating felt hearts.

The half term ended with a fun disco, run by teacher James Ball and supported by the Parents and Friends Committee and other staff members.

Headteacher Richard Ware said that he was pleased to see everyone having fun after a busy half term. NM

Gibbonsdown & Court Partnership

Refreshments available

A.G.M
(Annual General Meeting)

Tuesday 29th March 2011
From 6pm
At the Gibbonsdown Children's Centre, Ramsey Road, Barry

Communities First will be showcasing various projects for local residents to view.

We will also be looking for local people to join the Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First Partnership Board– to help take part in shaping projects and activities in their community.

For more information please contact the Communities First Coordinator Sharon Topazio on: SATopazio@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk 01446 732 406 or 0772 520 1199

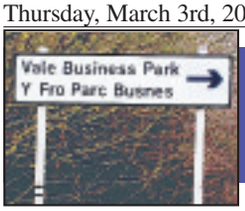
All Welcome!

Do you live in Gibbonsdown or Court wards?

Do you want to learn about projects and schemes that are available in your area and help shape your community?

There are lots of community projects available in your area that you could get involved with and benefit from - available for people of all ages.

Come along to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Gibbonsdown & Court Communities First Partnership Board - on Tuesday 29th March at 6pm in the Children's Centre in Gibbonsdown, Ramsey Road to find out more. Refreshments will be available.



FOCUS ON....

Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS!'

– Traders say the Vale Business Park gives them a great base

THE Vale may be proud of its leafy rural image, but every area needs more than green fields in order to thrive in today's challenging economic climate.

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That is why trading estates such as the Vale Business Park have such an important part to play in the life of the Vale – and it helps that it is one of the best managed and maintained around.

Anyone travelling along the road from Cowbridge to Llantwit Major would not immediately be aware of the scale of the park, and of the sheer number of enterprises that are beavering away behind Weavers, the Ford dealership that is visible from the highway.

The estate has come a long way since the Ministry of Defence decided to sell off the land in the 1970s, and it was LEL Properties that bought it.

The chairman of LEL Properties, John Winslade, told The GEM: "I think that anyone who looks around the park would be really surprised by the variety of companies doing business here!"

Millions have been invested in the site, as that wide range of businesses have moved in. The original layout had room for about 20 companies, but now there are more than 90 on site.

Another two moved in recently, as more companies become aware of the benefits to be found on the Vale Business Park. These include the overall security, as access is controlled at night by a gatehouse.

A total of 3,000 trees have been planted over the years, something that makes the Business Park blend in well with the natural landscape – a good thing, of course, although it does mean that people don't realise how much is here.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

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Vale Business Park

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The Business Park has something to offer all...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

A common experience in some trading estates is driving around constantly avoiding the potholes! However, the infrastructure in the Vale Business Park has been protected by the parent company's investment policy, continuing to monitor and repair road surfaces.

Christian Pedersen of Topstak has been in business at Llandow since 1968, and has seen his own business expand – particularly strongly over the last 10 years – with staff increasing by 25 per cent in the last 12 months.

Apart from providing local employment, Topstak sources all its firewood from managed woodlands around south Wales, spreading the economic benefits even further.

He said: "The park is an excellent location, and customers from Cardiff, south Wales and even further away find it easy to get here.

"It has helped us build a loyal and growing customer base."

Riverlea Tractors is another business that is well-established on the park, and a spokesman said: "It has been an excellent base for trading, here in the Vale and beyond."

He added that the horticultural side of the business, supplying chainsaws, blowers and similar items, had been a growth area in recent years.

Yet another company that has grown on the estate is Richard Couzens Machinery Ltd. Richard told The GEM: "As a local family business serving the local community, we have been able to grow thanks to the support of our customers.

"We are now in our fourth year, and employ four staff, and that support has meant that we recently expanded into horticultural products, taking on the dealership for Honda Power."

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Herbert R Thomas LLP is retained by LEL Properties to act as commercial agent and negotiate new lettings, and have recently let 3,650 sq ft on the Vale Business Park to Stunning Ventures Ltd, who provide corporate entertainment throughout the UK.

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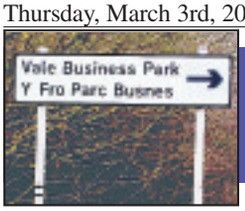

FOCUS ON....

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ABOVE: Richard Couzens machinery limited.
RIGHT: The Topstak showroom.

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Anthony Hopkins is devilishly hammy in average horror film

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

SEVERAL summers ago, I found myself walking behind Anthony Hopkins on Cowbridge High Street: had I the opportunity to stop him, after praising him on a career of huge success, I would have asked him why he was now choosing to spend his time making less-than vital fare.

The likes of *The Wolfman*, *All The Kings Men*, *Proof* and *The Human Stain* are all examples of lacklustre films wasting the actor's gravitas and ability.

With Hopkins' screen time diminishing due to his love of painting and composing (he will be 'in concert' this July in St David's Hall), his latest outing takes on something of a rare opportunity.

Entitled *The Rite*, it tells the story of Michael Kovak (Colin O'Donoghue), a seminary student sent to Rome to study exorcism under Father Lucas Trevant (Hopkins). However, Kovak's scepticism is put to the test by the events he sees, while Trevant starts to show signs that he, too, is becoming affected by the presence of evil…

For an Anthony Hopkins aficionado like myself, the opportunity to see him possessed by a demon is one that couldn't be passed up; after all, Hopkins unleashed is always a hugely watchable prospect, and the same is true here.

Sadly, that is one of the only things that is watchable, as The Rite is a humdrum slice of schlock horror, enlivened only by the lead turns.

That Hopkins isn't the lead isn't a huge problem, as the film is well anchored by newcomer Colin O'Donoghue as Kovak.

He offers a decent turn as a man thrown into a world of religion almost by accident, and it is his scepticism and reluctance that offers meat to the film's central conflict of belief versus doubt ,when it comes to the presence of evil.

O'Donoghue more than holds his own and is a solid lead, tempering his turn with low-key resolve and more than a hint of doubt, and it is an auspicious debut for the actor.

Opposite him, Hopkins is a devilish delight, his turn coming with a massive dollop of ham, yet as ever always watchable.

The scenes with him are easily the most engaging, the actor delivering all of his gravitas and nous to a role that he could probably play in his sleep, yet imbuing it with vivacity.

Hopkins would be watchable even as the lead in a Kerry Katona biopic, and it is in his exorcism scenes that he really hits home – no-one can shout lines like "Daddy's coming from hell!" with quite the same panache as Hopkins, and his turn, along with O'Donoghue's, really elevates the material.

While Alice Braga is so-so as a journalist looking into the world of exorcism, and the likes of Ciaran Hinds, Rutger Hauer and Toby Jones pop up to give the cast list a credibility boost – it is Marta Gastini who strikes out as a young girl who, depending on your viewpoint, is either possessed or in need of psychiatric help; her performance is strong, hitting the right notes as a pregnant teen in a world of trouble. Director Mikael Hafstrom is on familiar territory here, having helmed the underwhelming hotel room horror 1408, and he clearly comes from the old school of relying on naturalistic jumps rather than computer-generated horrors; sadly, there just aren't enough of them. While Hafstrom gives the film an eerie look and feel, and plays on the psychological impact of the events, the scares just aren't there, with only a few jumps carrying any level of ingenuity.

While he moves the film along at a pace, and marshals the performances well, there just isn't very much going on here from the direction, Hafstrom undone by a horror lacking in real scares.

The biggest bugbear, however, is the script. Written by Michael Petroni (responsible for the last outing in the *Narnia* franchise, weirdly) and based on a book by Matt Baglio, which recounts true events, it starts off as a story about how a conflicted man finds himself tested by the church's unerring belief in the presence of the devil and evil.

This conflict is mined well early on, but once we reach the exorcism parts, this meatier topic of belief systems gives way to histrionics and generic horror staples.

As frustrating as this is, it is almost par for the course in a genre that places scares over substance – and were it not for the three decent turns on show here, *The Rite* would be on the bottom rung of that ladder.

However, Hopkins' delightfully devilish turn and those around him make this a passable, but ultimately forgettable, film.

VERDICT – *A schlocky horror that is lifted by the turns of Anthony Hopkins, Colin O'Donoghue and Marta Gastini, The Rite is nothing spectacular nor anything overtly offensive.*

Lacking in real scares and jumps, it is the performances of the previously mentioned actors that save it from total ignominy. ***AVERAGE.***

Artist looks for Vale women with a story

WOMEN in the Vale are being asked to come forward to take part in an art project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

It is the idea of local artist Sol Jorgensen, who has returned to St Donats Arts Centre for another solo exhibition of drawings, prints and photographs of rural women in small communities.

The exhibition forms the start of a new project to draw and record the lives of women in the rural Vale in particular, and Sol is looking for interesting women to draw.

The exhibition has an introduction by Mrs Pauline Thomas, a Wick resident for 45 years, and is open to the public from Monday to Friday (10am–4pm).

Sol is known locally for work with disabled youth, and gave up a promising career to stay at home and care for her disabled father and son.

In her first year at art college she exhibitied photographs in the prestigious Institute of Contemporary Art in London and lectured in St Martins College of Art in the year after her degree.

ABOVE:
One of Sol Jorgensen's drawings of her son, Seth.

She is now studying for her masters degree, and has a studio in Wick.

Anyone interested in having a portrait drawn by Sol can contact her on 01656 890728 to set up a venue, and to be invited to a private view and artists talk on March 7.

This is on the eve of the 100th International Womens Day and has prompted the project.

Sol stold The GEM: "Local stories and local lives are often lost to history, but make up the very backbone of our land. I would like to record some of the life stories in whatever form is suitable to the sitter.

"From drawing to diary work, paintings to poems, of the land and working the land, of the people that make up our lives. In this Centennial year I want to include women from the Rural Vale."'

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It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, and some changes to the menu with a new specials board, we are definitely worth visiting.

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Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value menu from only £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings from the end of May onwards. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. Sunday lunch from £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major.

What else? A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

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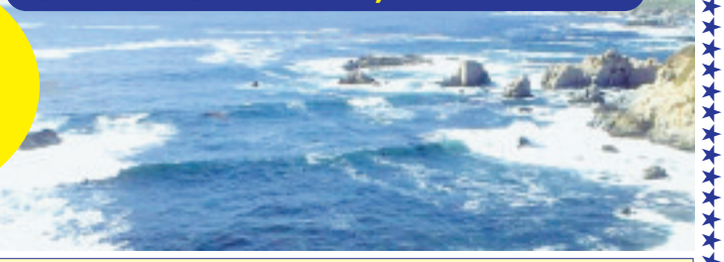

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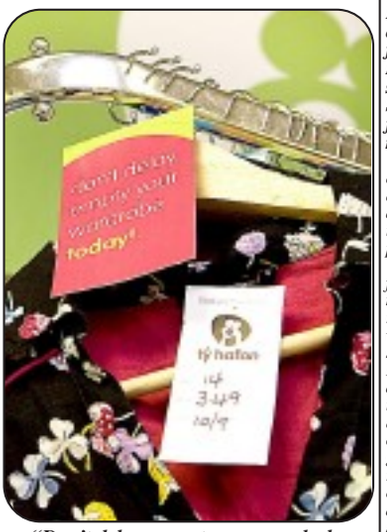
"And if you happen to be a UK taxpayer, and sign up for Gift Aid, Ty Hafan can claim an extra 25p in the pound on top of the selling price of your donations. It doesn't end there either as, should an item not be sold, it will be sent for recycling which generates additional income for the charity too."

For more information, telephone 029 2067 2067 or visit www.tyhafan.org



"Don't delay – empty your wardrobe today!" – Ty Hafan call.

Kidney Wales' Walk for Life

KIDNEY Wales Foundation's biggest event of the year, Walk for Life, on Sunday, March 27, will be sponsored by Specsavers Bridgend for the third year in a row.

It comprises a series of walks across Wales, organised by local people and attracts thousands, including celebrities and politicians.

"As well as supporting families affected by kidney disease, money raised from the walks will fund and train key staff at the Children's Kidney Centre. It will also help the charity invest in life-saving equipment and patient care, as well as fund ground-breaking research into kidney disease and support organ donation," a spokesman said.

Celebrities such as TV presenters Alex Jones, Sarra Elgan and Andrea Benfield, as well as Wales rugby star Leigh Halfpenny, have already pledged their support to this year's event as Walk for Life ambassadors.

Anne Lowndes, director at Specsavers Bridgend, says: "We're extremely proud to be sponsoring the Walk for Life again this year. It was an easy decision for us to make as the work the Kidney Wales Foundation does is close to the heart of many of staff and customers.

"As kidney disease is often caused by hypertension and diabetes, which is also responsible for many complications in the eye, the cause is very relevant to many of our customers."

For more information, contact www.kidneywales.com

Over-50s are offered a leisure centre taster day

VALE residents who are more than 50 years of age are invited to a day at their local leisure centre to try out a range of activities.

The days, given the snappy title "You Don't Know Until You Give It A Go Day" will take place at three Vale leisure centres, and are organised jointly by Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale, and The Vale Council.

A spokeswoman said: "These free days will offer taster sessions in different activities that already take place in the Vale.

"Each session is from 10.30am to 2.30pm, and there will be free tea and coffee.

"Taster sessions in Nordic walking, bowls, 'Extend', yoga, belly dancing, badminton and a photographic challenge walk, plus many more.

"There will be information on footpaths, cycle routes, private gyms, health spas and existing activity groups."

She added: "If you are over 60, why not bring proof of age, a swimsuit and towel to Barry or Penarth and have a free swim while you are there."

The sessions will take place at: Cowbridge Leisure Centre (Wednesday, March 9); Barry Leisure Centre (Wednesday, March 16); and Penarth (Cogan) Leisure Centre (Wednesday, March 23).

There will be local posters at each centres giving full details of the day's timetable.

IN BRIEF

Rhoose surgery

RHOOSE ward councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp will be holding one of their regular advice surgeries on Saturday, March 12 from 10am to 12 noon at the Rhoose Community hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose. Residents in the ward are welcome. No appointment is necessary. *For further information, telephone 01446 710690.*

Diabetes talk

THE Diabetes UK Cymru's Vale voluntary group will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 15 in the board room at Llandough Hospital, at 7.30pm.

Dr Julia Platts, Consultant diabetologist, will give an update on diabetes research. New members welcome.

Call 01446 746639 for details.

Film show

THERE will be a film and social evening at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society tomorrow (Friday, March 4)

Non-members interested in aeroplances and the romance of flying are also welcome to attend.

The meeting will be held in the Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm for 8pm.

Further information from David Ephraim on 01446 721321.

Poetic art!

THE Washington Gallery in Penarth will be holding a women's art exhibition, to commemorate International Women's Day, all over the world on March 8.

Pauline Williams, Kay Keogh, Shirley Anne Owen and Sue Roberts will present an exhibition of painting and 3D work, incorporating the theme of poetry from March 7-26.

Fairtrade feast in Porthcawl

SUSTAINABLE WALES is planning a 'Fairtrade Feast' at The Salthouse, The Square, Porthcawl, on March 10, from 7pm.

The Feast is one of the highlights of the annual 'Fairtrade Fortnight' (February 28-March 13) and draws attention to unfair trading practices, as well as providing funds for Sustainable Wales.

Director Margaret Minhinnick said: "The charity is hoping to entice people to a meal that starts off with a Fairtrade cocktail reception and progresses over three luscious courses, the ingredients of which are as fairly-traded and locally-sourced as possible, finishing off with coffee and Fairtrade chocolates.

"Dinner guests are asked to don items of cotton to draw attention to the injustices that make Fairtrade a vital lifeline for cotton farmers.

"Most producers are small-scale farmers up against unstable world prices, pushed down by cheap, subsidised cotton from China, the US and EU dumped onto world markets."

Contact Sustainable Wales at 41 John Street, Porthcawl, 01656 783405, or SUSSED, 92 John Street, 783962.

BUY FAIRTRADE!

DURING 'Show off your label!' in Fairtrade Fortnight (February 28-March 13) Cowbridge shoppers are invited to get 'loud and proud' and show the Fairtrade label to make a difference to millions of developing world farmers who still live in poverty.

Fairtrade goods are on sale in Noah's Place Café, 21 Westgate, on March 5 from 10.30am.

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA?

Councillors' surgery

LABOUR councillors for Castleland ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell, will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, March 5 between 10.30am-12pm at the Drop In Centre, No 3 Dunlin Court, Thompson Street Estate, Barry.

No appointment is necessary. If you need advice but can't attend the surgery, contact Coun Chris Elmore on 07867 506116, or 01446 401595.

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group on Monday, March 7 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, will feature a report on the Dyspraxia training day run by the Dyscovery Centre.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

Fibromyalgia support

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8.

Contact group leader Barbara Clissett on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Call are charged at standard rate.

Local history meeting

THE next meeting of the Dinas Powys Local History Society will be on tuesday, March 8 at 7.30pm, when Matthew Salisbury will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Captain Scott – The Cardiff Connection' in the Kynance Church Hall, Dinas Powys.

A fee of £1.50 will be charged at the door for non-members, and £1 for members. All are welcome to attend.

Eisteddfod appeal committee

THE National Eisteddfod of Wales will be held at Llandow, from August 4-11, 2012 and a Dinas Powys appeal committee has been set up to raise £12,000 towards the costs.

Some of the forthcoming events are: Monday, March 14 – fish and chip supper at the Star Inn – The Square, Dinas Powys at 7-30 pm.(Cost £12).

Saturday, April 30 – Twmpath Dawns – Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

Thursday, May 26 – An Evening with Rhodri Morgan – Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

Saturday, June 18 – family barbecue – Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

All are welcome to bring additional fundraising ideas to an open meeting to be held at the Old Library, Britway Road, Dinas Powys on Tuesday, March 8, at 7.30pm.

Further information may be obtained from: Mrs Julia Beasley, telephone 029 2051 2185; or Mrs Jayne Lewis, telephone 029 2051 3500

A Cowbridge Physic Garden Event

Gardeners' Question Time
in the **St Quentin's Suite** *at the* **Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, Wednesday, March 16th at 7.30pm**

'A YEAR IN MY GARDEN'

A talk by Ivor Mace, renowned nationwide expert on chrysanthemums, roses, carnations and a Premier League vegetable grower.
Enjoy an informative evening with one of the best plantsmen in Wales.

Chairman: Dan Clayton-Jones with a panel of experts
Tickets £5 per person (pay at the door) • Bar and Raffle
For pre-booked tickets phone: 01446 774534 or book on-line
All proceeds for the Physic Garden which relies wholly on public support for its livelihood
Church Street, COWBRIDGE, Vale of Glamorgan
www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Bereaved by **Suicide?**
Our Self Help Group may help...
Hosted by Bridgend Samaritans
Anyone affected by suicide welcome
1st Thursday, every month, 7pm
YMCA Bridgend • Angel Street • Bridgend • CF31 4AD
For more information contact Bridgend Samaritans
01656 662333
SAMARITANS *www.samaritans.org*

ZENERGY'S PSYCHIC FAYRE
at Llantwit Major Rugby Club
this Saturday, 5th March 10am to 3pm
Admission Free
* Psychic Readings * Astrology
* New Age Gifts * Childrens Activities
Come along or if not available why not book a Psychic Party in your home.
Mindfulness Meditation - Tuesdays 6.45 - 8.15pm
Bank House, East Street, Llantwit Major - Only £2.50
Call 01446 796411 for more information
e-mail: info@zenergylife.com
web: www.zenergylife.com

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RE-OPENS ON THURSDAY 3rd MARCH
Open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
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SUPERSTARS IN MAKING RAISE FUNDS FOR NOAH'S ARK APPEAL

LEFT:
Christian Bullen and Connie Fisher.

STUDENTS from Barry's Superstars in the Making Performing Arts Academy provided the entertainment for The Noah's Ark Appeal's annual event at the Hilton Hotel on February 27.

The children performed a variety of hits from West End Musicals including the *Sound of Music* in the presence of Connie Fisher, star of the West End revival.

The students were invited to perform at this prestigious event after being spotted at their 'Superstars Live' show at the Memorial Hall last November. Receiving a standing ovation at the end of Sunday's show was proof that these children are real Superstars. The academy is thrilled to contribute to such a worthwhile charity and all proceeds went to The Noah's Ark Appeal fund!

The students enjoyed chatting with Connie after the show and were thrilled to be invited to perform in future events.

To follow Superstars' busy performance schedule, visit www.superstarsinthemaking.com or call 07531814820.

CHRISTIAN BULLEN

Staff at the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth, meet the rugby stars.

Welsh rugby stars bring smiles to local hospice

TWO of the Welsh rugby stars who played against Italy in Rome on Saturday are helping to promote Marie Curie's Great Daffodil appeal.

The charity's hospice at Penarth recently had a visit from Jamie Roberts and Sam Warburton who met patients in the wards and in the day therapy.

One patient at the hospice, who is a great supporter of the team, is Jane Walker, and Jamie and Sam found a WRU jersey and calendar on her wall in her hospice room, which Jane then asked them to sign.

Her husband, Steve, said: "Jane has been feeling very unwell but the surprise visitors brought a smile back to her face."

To get involved with the Great Daffodil Appeal, or to support the hospice, telephone the fundraising office on 029 2042 6068.

Jane and Steve Walker meet Blues and Wales rugby stars Jamie Roberts and Sam Warburton.

Penarth Computer Club
Helping to cut out the jargon!

WHY do we at the club try to avoid jargon? Because it gets in the way of understanding.

Consider the English language. We all use it fairly effectively and can usually make ourselves understood.

We cannot know all the words, even if we are perfect with the grammar. We just do the best we can.

It is hard to understand what someone is saying if they use unfamiliar words. I am not talking only about educated, or sophisticated, words. The problem is just as acute if the words form part of a local dialect or slang or jargon.

Jargon is the language, especially the words, used by a particular trade, group, or profession. The technical nature of computers means that there is an inevitable amount of jargon. We encourage members to shout 'Jargon', if the speaker uses a word that is not understood. It can then be explained in simple language immediately. It means that others who would be reluctant to shout out also learn.

Much jargon consists of words made up for the new technology. For example, BIOS is a computer acronym for basic input output system just as BOGOF in marketing stands for buy one get one free. A more general one is PIN for personal identification number.

Everyday words can also mean something entirely different in the context of computers. A computer used to be a person who did the working out of a mathematician's formula by inserting a series of values and computing the results using pencil and paper. Now it is a magic box that does wonderfully complex things according to instructions.

A mouse used to have a tail, in common with a real live mouse. A wireless mouse doesn't have one, but the name will stick.

We boot up a computer, but do not actually kick it. The boot refers to a bootstrap programme coded permanently into the machine. It runs when the power is switched on and loads the operating system into memory for operation.

It refers to the self-sufficiency of being able to pull oneself up by ones own bootstraps.

A bug was already in use as a term for a problem in a device and extended to computer programmes when they came about.

In 1947 America, when computers were still using valves and electrical contacts, a problem was identified as a dead moth trapped between relay terminals.

It was stuck to the daily log and noted as the first actual case of a bug being found. The log, with moth, eventually found its way into the Smithsonian in 1991 and later exhibited.

What might have started out as a joke is now enshrined in computer history.

The computer pioneers must have had fun dreaming up new words or new meanings for old ones.

We next meet on Tuesday March 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30 for 8. There will be a short session on keyboard shortcuts and a talk on a topic yet to be decided. Visitors welcome.

HOWARD DESMOND

Cowbridge squash results

WITH the squash league taking a week off, it is a chance to take a look at the league tables.

While Cowbridge A Bar 44 are fighting it out in a tight league, the B Bar 44 team will be hoping to catch the top two in the coming weeks.

The C team meanwhile will be looking to pull away from the bottom and make a charge towards the upper reaches of the tabel - there is all to play for!

ONE EAST SECTION B

**Referee Points*

Pos	Team	Ties Won	Ties Lost	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Games For	Games Against	Points For	Points Against	TOTAL POINT
1st	Newport D	4	1	17	8	58	43	716	631	75*
2nd	Rhiwbina B	3	2	14	11	49	45	650	638	63*
3rd	Cardiff C	2	3	12	13	50	56	668	752	58
4th	St Mellons C	3	2	11	14	45	56	677	703	57
5th	Cowbridge A Bar 44	2	3	12	13	49	50	969	671	57
6th	Newport E	1	4	9	16	52	53	712	724	56

SOUTH GLAMORGAN ONE

**Referee Points*

Pos	Team	Ties Won	Ties Lost	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Games For	Games Agnst	Points For	Points Agnst	TOTAL POINTS
1st	David Lloyd B	4	1	18	7	58	33	676	544	76*
2nd	Barry Leisure A	4	1	16	9	56	35	670	540	73*
3rd	Cowbridge B Bar 44	2	3	9	16	39	54	555	661	48*
4th	St Mellons E	1	4	9	16	38	55	590	665	45*
5th	Rhiwbina D	2	2	8	12	35	44	483	554	44*
6th	Old Penarthians B	1	3	10	10	34	39	485	495	38

SOUTH GLAMORGAN THREE

**Referee Points*

Pos	Team	Ties Won	Ties Lost	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Games For	Games Agnst	Points For	Points Agnst	TOTAL POINTS
1st	Llanishen B	3	1	12	8	44	31	547	463	57*
2nd	Old Penarthians C	2	2	11	9	42	32	530	491	50
3rd	UHW A	2	2	9	11	35	39	485	522	45*
4th	Cowbridge C	2	2	9	11	35	41	493	538	43
5th	Cardiff University B	1	3	9	11	30	43	477	518	34

RUSS WATTS

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Tales of a Bristol Channel pilot inspired forum speaker

WHEN involved as a teenager in sailing from Penarth, the speaker, Mr Dave Phillips, met an old Bristol Channel pilot and heard many tales that fired him to learn more about this interesting subject.

The fact that some of them, he later came to suspect, might not have been true, did not diminish his zeal!

One day, he saw a real pilot cutter on the slipway and decided to make the history of these fast and essential craft the subject of his college thesis.

Members of the forum were therefore conscious that they were learning about this subject from a master of his facts concerning the whole history of pilotage in the difficult and dangerous waters, that continue to this day to bring vital trade to ports on both sides of the Channel.

All who live in this area know of the huge tides, the currents, the rocks and the sand banks that make sailing on the Bristol Channel such a hazard. The need for pilotage to get ships from the Atlantic up to the important port of Bristol had been recognised from medieval times.

The history is well documented and vast, and only snippets can be told in a report of this size.

Dave even told us that a certain, James Ray, was the pilot who took Cabot's ship the *Matthew*, from the Avon and through the Channel on its journey from Bristol to discover America in 1497.

A little later a Lt. Bligh of the RN, later to become the captain of the *Bounty*, drew charts of the sandbanks and other hazards in the Channel and copies of these were shown to forum members.

The city and county of Bristol had been granted a charter by the Crown in the 15th century to control and licence all pilotage activities in the Channel and the fast and unique cutters were normally built there.

Although Bristol appointed and controlled all pilots until the 1860s the pilots themselves really, without exception, all came from the village of Pill downriver from the great city and actually in Somerset.

There were often strained relations between the village of Pill and the city, but after a visit from the press gang during the Napoleonic Wars, the city authorities forebade future visits and protected the village that lived on its pilotage skills.

When Channel trade increased in early Victorian times, there were often 20 to 30 pilot cutters lurking in the lee of Lundy Island, waiting to race out to get their pilot on board distant steamers headed eastward to port.

It was a lucrative, but dangerous business. Between 1877 and 1914 our speaker informed us that at least 70 cutters were lost at sea. Very few were lost to bad weather conditions. A far greater number were simply run-down during 'normal' operations.

Bristol lost its monopoly of pilot supply and control in the middle of the 19th century when the need for coal and steel led to a huge expansion of trade from Cardiff and Newport docks, and pilots were for the first time appointed to serve ships plying their trade on the Welsh side of the Channel.

Initially, they had to be supplied from Pill, so that small and remarkable village continued to thrive.

Eventually, the fast but old fashioned pilot cutters were phased out and replaced by steam boats, but it is interesting to note that Bristol pilots still had two sailing cutters operating in the 1950s, well within the lifetime of a few of our older members.

These wonderful boats are still being built today, for leisure purposes, at a cost of half a million pounds each, on the same stretch of water where Cabot's ship and his pilot's boat were each built so long ago.

At the next meeting on March 3, Mr Jonathan Hicks will speak on 'Barry and World War Two'.

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. For further details, contact 029 2059 4881.

MAC TANNER.

The new season starts for the farming golfers

ABOVE: Veteran golfers John Davies, Mike Lee, Gwyn Evans and David Thomas ready to start a new season.

THE opening fixture of the new golfing calendar of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society took place last Thursday.

A total of 48 members and guests gathered at Southerndown Golf Club to compete for the Southerndown Cup, and the quality prizes supplied by generous sponsor, Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

The testing conditions often endured on this well-maintained links course once again caused a few problems, particularly for those more used to playing on parkland courses.

The sound of a hunting horn controlling hounds out on exercise, which occasionally drifted across the course, also proved quite a distraction – especially to those with dual interests.

With nearly half of those competing playing on their home course, it was no surprise to discover all the prizewinners were members of the host club.

Martin David, proud father of successful racehorse jockeys Tom and Evan, was determined not to be left behind in the family's recent sporting achievements when scoring 38 stableford points to take first prize in the members' section, seeing off the challenge of John Caines, who finished runner-up with 37.

Veteran golfer Robert Thomas with 36 points, finished third just ahead of Keith Wilding who scored 34 points.

In the guest section, Southerndown committeeman Lyn Davies, with 31 points, finished runner-up to Gordon Cooper who finished with 37 points.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Neil McLean, Trevor Wooding, John Caines and Robert Thomas, while guest John Thomas hit the longest drive on the selected hole to win the 'James Hog Roast' sponsored prize.

Llantwit Major farmer Brian Jones once again returned home with a prize for his devoted and long-suffering wife Diana, when correctly guessing 31 balls would fail to make the journey home to win the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whisky.

Members were particularly pleased to see Dai John making his season's debut following his recent enforced break, and also to see both David Thomas and Gwyn Evans complete the course.

Keith Walker's remarkable record of attending every society meeting since 2003 came to an end due to some cosmetic surgery, but all are hoping he will be available (and recognisable) for the society's next meeting at the Glamorganshire Golf Club, Penarth kindly sponsored by Hire One Ltd.

TMcC

Brian Jones wins another prize for his wife.

Keith Walker missed his first meeting since 2003.

Call up for Cory!

CORY ALLEN has been selected to play for Wales' under-18 WRU team.

He is the only Vale player to be selected to play for his country at this level of rugby, and is a student of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

They have a mini 'Six Nations' coming up, and he played in a friendly game against Leicester Tigers in preparation for this. He is also in the Cardiff Blues Academy and has been informed that the Blues will be offering him a contract.

DG

We welcome your news and views, reports and other items of interest - email gemeditorial @tindlenews .co.uk

Geraint 'pedals' recycling message

ABOVE: Welsh champion cyclist Geraint Thomas has pledged his support to the Vale's recycling campaigns.

WORLD champion and Olympic cyclist Geraint Thomas MBE is helping to raise the profile of recycling in the Vale.

He is urging local residents to champion the reduce, reuse and recycle way of living.

Dragons on top but fail to take their chances

Barry Town	**1**
Cambrian and Clydach BCG	**3**

THE final score does not really tell the truth of a game which, particularly in the second half, The Dragons dominated for long periods.

First blood went to Barry Town when a great through ball to Mike Hartley saw him cut inside and fire a shot past the Cambrian keeper.

Gradually Cambrian started to get into the game with Lee Matthews, a former Dragon, playing well in midfield.

The game ebbed and flowed with neither team creating chances until Cambrian were awarded a free kick.

Slack marking at the back allowed Jason Bertorelli a free header, which was promptly despatched past Dan Bradley.

Cambrian then hit two in five minutes when a Michael Jones shot was deflected past the stranded Barry keeper and another shot from Jamie Rewberry, going well wide, hit Kurt Bettles and went into the net.

The second half belonged to Barry Town but they were unable to find that last pass to create a chance.

The Dragons will be disappointed with the result but will take heart from another good display which on another day would have got them at least a point.

On Friday night, The Dragons travel to Taffs Well for what is now an important game, with The Dragons only taking four points from their last eight games, since they beat Taffs Well in early November.

Dragons: Dan Bradley; Geraint Frowen, Kurt Bettles, Lewis Cosslett, Lewis James; Rob Blatchford, Sam Hartrey, James Saddler, Mike Hartley (sub Zaki Misbah); Josh Bell (sub Anthony Nagi), Ryan Jenkins.

DC

Cowbridge under-7s leave it late to snatch win over Wanderers

COWBRIDGE under-7s squad was down to 15 for this hastily re-arranged fixture against Glamorgan Wanderers.

Wanderers arrived with a combined under-7s and under-8s team, as they obviously had the same pressures and looking at the size of them, it appeared that most were of the older age group;

However, their coaching team very fairly mixed the team up so as to make it as fair a contest as possible.

Things started badly for the Cowbridge boys when the Wanderers ran in for a try practically from the kick-off, but the boys rallied and played with the best team effort seen this year.

Reuben Davies, with his characteristic strong running, levelled the scores and then grabbed a further two for a first quarter lead.

The second quarter saw James Jones score his first try for Cowbridge, which mitigated the three scored by the Wanderers.

Two tries from Archie Lloyd and one from Harry Treharne equalled those scored by Wanderers in the third quarter.

Into the final quarter with Cowbridge ahead by one try, and Wanderers, with some of their older boys on the pitch, went ahead before a truly spectacular try from Lewys Robins started the fight back, with James Jones adding a second after great support running.

Lewys Robins completed his hat-trick and Rhys Pritchard popped up on the right wing to put Cowbridge ahead by one try with a minute to go.

Some amazing defence was required, with Wanderers on the Cowbridge line, and this was rewarded by a turnover, letting Lewys blaze away for a thoroughly deserved 13-11 victory.

A truly great game to watch, as the defence won the game.

Special mention must be made for the match-winning performance by Robbie Brown with his truly spectacular diving tags and all round defensive work, ably supported by Tom Brennan, who was always to the fore in getting to the runner, and Iolo Davies.

A really great result against a largely older team, played with a great attitude on both sides.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Iolo Davies Reuben Davies, Ethan Francis, Akka Guwy, James Jones, Arcie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Rhys Pritchard, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Harry Treharne.

Under-11s, Pontypridd (away)

COWBRIDGE under-11s headed in to the Rhondda Valley to tackle Pontypridd.

Morgan Gore got things going with one of his trademark accurate kick offs, allowing Bevan Howells to gather and drive deep into Ponty territory.

The early action saw Cowbridge dominate territory and the front five of Jake Griffiths, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Jac Roberts and Sam Corkill were superb as they constantly won in the contact area.

Ioan Lewis and Rhys Bradshaw linked well to allow Bevan Howells and Morgan Gore the space to penetrate the Ponty midfield.

On several occasions Luke Beattie and Max Cunnington made good ground, while makeshift full back Max Lucas drove powerfully with ball in hand.

The inevitable score came as Morgan Gore slipped a tackle and outstripped the defence.

As play moved deep into Ponty territory, Ioan Lewis fed Rhys Bradshaw, who slipped a lovely pass to Bevan Howells, who powered over in the corner.

For the final third, Sam Corkill was outstanding as he constantly put his body on the line defending against much bigger opponents, while Jac Roberts was always on hand to steal the opposition ball.

The much smaller Cowbridge backs also played their part in a huge defensive effort with Ioan Lewis, Rhys Bradshaw, Bevan Howells and Morgan Gore refusing to take a backward step.

Evan Williams raced over for the final try of the match, for a final score of **Pontypridd 0 Cowbridge 21.**

Our thanks to all the players, coaches and supporters from Pontypridd for their warm welcome and a very tough morning of rugby.

Squad: Bevan Howells, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, Luke Beattie, Max Cunnington, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Rhys Bradshaw, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

MTL

Who wants to build what and where in the Vale?

Andrew Hayes – **2 Hollyrood Close, Highlight Park, Barry** – Prune/trim silver birch.

Mrs Marilyn Gomaa – **31 Eagle Road, St Athan** – Single storey flat roofed extension to the rear and Juliet balcony to bedroom at first floor.

Mr John Hawkins – **Springfield (Llandow) Limited, Sutton Road, Llandow** – Temporary consent for two years for siting of residential caravan to accommodate horticultural worker.

Wolverhampton Tree Services – **Old College Inn, Buttrils Road, Barry** – Removal of limbs away from building.

Mr Graham Wright – **15 Chantry Rise, Penarth** – Extension to the front and rear of the property, erection of a new garage in rear garden, loft conversion with dormer to rear of property.

CPMS – **Land adjacent to the A48, grass verge adjacent to McDonalds Restaurant, Culverhouse Cross, Wenvoe** – Three sided internally illuminated totem sign, with only the letters to illuminate.

Mr K Singhal – **Land at Rhiwau, Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – Renewal of application 06/00236/FUL – alteration to Old Port Road.

Mr Mike Clare – **1 Augusta Road, Penarth** – Extend/lift height of roof along full ridge length, altering angle to roof and building up part of the rear elevation. External walls to incorporate extended first floor across foot print of existing domestic dwelling.

Mr Chris John – **75 South Road, Sully** – Creating habitable space above existing single storey annex building to form ancillary domestic accommodation and external alterations.

Mrs Lynette Williams – **Land to the south east of Wyndham Park Estate, Peterston Super Ely** – Portal frame storage shed.

Mr M and Mrs C Galea – **35 Greenfield Avenue, Dinas Powys** – Rear ground floor extension.

Mr Andrew Nourish – **13 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Erection of single storey rear extension.

Mr Iain McCarthy – **St Peters, Station Terrace, East Aberthaw** – Retrospective application for single storey rear extension.

Mrs Claire Gott – **Land to rear of 3 Woodland Place, Penarth** – Erection of one no. 3 bedroom dwelling house with associated car parking and amenity space.

Mrs Catherine Brain – **Ynysdawel, Llancarfan** – Single storey garage extension with roof terrace above and conversion of existing garage with associated external works.

Coral Estates Limited – **145 Holton Road, Barry** – Fascia to front elevation.

Mr Simon Olden – **Land adjacent to Glebe Field Barn, Llandow** – New stable block and hay store.

Fitz Project Management – Miniature golf course adjacent to Tourist Information Centre, The Promenade, Barry Island.

Mr John Foley – **12 Fairfield Crescent, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension providing lounge/bedroom, utility, shower room and store.

Mr David Davis – **10 Fairfield Crescent, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension providing hall, shower room and study.

Mrs Harson – **25 Lon Lyndys, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – Rear conservatory.

Sully Centurions Cricket Club – **Glebefields, Sully** – Change of use from grazing land to cricket ground and associated car parking facilities.

Mr Martin Stokes – **115-117 Port Road East, Barry** – Provide new galvanised steel fire escape/access stairs externally to side of residential care home.

Ms K Wordley – **2 Bradford Place, Penarth** – Reduce horse chestnut by 50 per cent/pollard.

Mr and Mrs Phil James – **White Bungalow, Barry** – Alterations to existing vehicular access.

Mr and Mrs Louis and Clare Clement – **7 Ham Lane Louth, Llantwit Major** – Alterations and extension to rear of existing 3 bed dwelling to form 4 bed family home.

Mr Scott Richardson – **Willow Tree House, The Downs, St Nicholas** – Single storey extension to existing garage to form additional garage space and playroom.

Mr Darren Bull – **6 Cae'r Pwll, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs E H Lewis – **Michaelmas Cottage, The Vines, Colwinston** – Installation of chimney pipe to east (rear) elevation and insertion of French door and canopy on north (side) elevation replacing window.

Mr John Williams – **Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea** – Demolition of former hotel and construction of nine apartments, including car parking and landscaping.

Mr David Evans Agricultural Ltd – **Old Middle Hill, Walterston, Llancarfan** – Proposed machinery store building.

Mr Benrose – **134 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Ubber room (timber structure) to the rear of the property.

Dr John Pikoulis – **Dinas Powys Lawn Tennis Club, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys** – Floodlight one tier of three tennis courts (nos 10,11 and 12).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 9th March 2011

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H4U Reference 250825
Suit. for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £73.32 per week including water charges

ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 397473
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden/parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £90.34 per week including service charge

ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 972370
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Lwr ground floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden/parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £98.56 per week including service charge

CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY

No Image Available

H4U Reference 1063849
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Driveway

Rent £82.44 per week including service charge

CWM PARC, BARRY

H4U Reference 206501
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
Priority given to people with mobility issues
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £91.11 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 231178
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden on-site
- Communal gardens

Rent £91.61 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 231104
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
Priority given to people with mobility issues
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden/gardens

Rent £91.61 per week including service charges

GOWER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 204955
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
Priority given to people with mobility issues
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £76.02 per week including service charges

HEOL Y LLONGAU, BARRY

H4U Reference 1008055
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Driveway

Rent £74.72 per week including service charge

HOLLAND WAY, BARRY

H4U Reference 212598
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £82.98 per week including water charges

LLANDINAM ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 215083
Suitable for a family
Not suitable for people with mobility issues
- Three-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £74.14 per week including water charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Andrew Road	97	Gold	10/06/09
Cadoc Crescent	103	Gold+	15/09/09
Castle Avenue	109	Gold+	19/05/10
Dale Court	21	Gold	08/12/10
Dorothy Close	69	gold	05/10/10
Dunlin Court	50	Gold	21/08/10
Fairoaks	9	Bronze	26/08/10
Ffordd Elin	48	Gold	09/11/10
Florence Avenue	78	Gold	01/04/10
Glyndwr Road	65	Gold	24/11/10
Lougher Place	37	Gold	30/09/10
Lougher Place	27	Gold	16/08/10
Lougher Place	20	Gold	22/11/10
Mocsade Place	54	Gold	27/09/10
Merion Close	50	Gold+	07/12/10
Nicholl Court	33	Gold	14/12/10
North Walk	23	Silver	11/07/08
Pontalun Close	20	Bronze	24/04/10
Redlands Avenue	22	Silver	21/09/10
Sir Ivor Place	58	Gold	17/08/10
Somerset Road	50	Gold+	11/01/07
Springfield Rise	12	Bronze	23/07/08
St Baruchs Court	38	Gold	01/11/10
St Govans Close	14	Silver	01/10/10
St Teilo Avenue	105	Gold	09/11/10
Tennyson Road	73	Gold	15/09/09
Tensing Terrace	16	Bronze	20/10/10
Warwick Way	76	Gold	26/05/10
Whitewell Road		WITHDRAWN	

LON YR EGLWYS, ST BRIDES MJR

H4U Reference 250019
Suit. for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £74.13 per week including service charges

LOUGHER PLACE, ST ATHAN

H4U Reference 249058
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.52 per week including water charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 217823
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £72.75 per week including service charges

PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 219467
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £79.29 per week including service charges

SOUTH VIEW, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 247737
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £80.90 per week including water charges

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 226238
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family-no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.67 per week including service charges

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Public Notice

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
GRANTS TO COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Applications are invited from COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (not individuals) seeking assistance for the financial year 2011/2012.

Applicants are required to complete an application form which is available from: Accountancy Section, Finance Dept., Civic Offices, Holton Rd., Barry. CF63 4RU. Tel: 01446 709250/186. Fax: 01446 701729.

Applications from or on behalf of national organisations, or other organisations, which are not based within the Council's area **will not normally be considered.**

Applications will be considered on their merit and according to this Council's criteria, a copy of which accompanies the application form. Submission of an application does not automatically ensure that a grant will be made.

Organisations in receipt of this funding last year will have already been sent the appropriate form for completion and need not respond to this advertisement.

Application forms are to be returned by Thursday, 28 April 2011.

Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

Sian Davies,
Director of Finance, ICT & Property

VALE of GLAMORGAN — BRO MORGANNWG

Charity Commission – CSD-1161C

CHARITY: Sir Thomas Mansel Franklen Trust
REFERENCE: C-202260

The Charity Commission proposes to make a scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.
A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EN
Telephone - Mrs F Gandy, PA to the Headteacher: 01446 772311

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227, Liverpool, L69 3UG, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/schemesdefault.aspx

Comments or representations can be made within one month from February 17th, 2011.

Public Notices

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Mr P Lunn
Official Receiver and Trustee

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GEM Family Notices

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Nancy Davidge
March 6, 2011

wishing you a Happy Birthday and here's to many more!

From all your friends at The GEM

Abby Price

Happy 18th Birthday for March 9th
Loads of Love, Mum, Dad, Lewis & Connor
x x x

Myfanwy Ellis (Rene)
2/3/1921
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Family Notices

Mary Candlish

Tom and family wish to thank parishioners, friends and neighbours for their many cards, expressions of sympathy and words of tribute to Mary at this very sad time. Also Our Lady and St Illtuds Ladies Guild, who served at the post Funeral arrangements.
Special thanks and appreciation to Rev Father W Isaacs for a very moving Requiem Mass; also the support to the family. Sincere thanks to Dr A Foreman, district nurse team, also doctors, Marie Curie nurses and support staff at Holme Towers Hospice, together with doctors and staff at Velindre Hospital.
Thanks also to William James, Fonmon, for the funeral arrangements.

Sarah Louise BURT
The Brambles, Craig Penllyne

The family of the late Miss Sarah Burt wishes to thank her many friends and colleagues for the messages of sympathy and condolences received over recent weeks. Special thanks to the Doctors and Nursing Staff at the Cowbridge Health Centre; Marie Curie Cancer Care and Velindre Hospital for the expert and very kindly care afforded Sarah throughout her long illness and particularly in her final days. Grateful thanks to the Reverend Glyn Austin for his support and words of compassion. Also, to Messrs. C and O.J Sendell, Funeral Directors for their expertise and professionalism.

Trott
Heather
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CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SPORTSHALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Poor turnout at event - but Vale athletes make their presence felt

ONLY three Vale schools – Cowbridge, Llantwit and Stanwell – sent pupils to this winter's Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' sportshall championships, a disappointing number given the normal strong support for local schools athletics competitions.

Last year, these championships were held, after school, on three afternoon sessions at Whitchurch lower school, but there were so many competitors at the under-15 boys and girls events that it was not possible to provide the pupils taking part with three attempts in field events.

As a result of that pressure, the decision was to split competition over four sessions – a move which slightly backfired because, although the two under-13 sessions were well supported with over 100 pupils at both, there were only 35 girls at the under-15 all-rounder, with just over 50 at the equivalent boys.

The under-15 competitions – for pupils in years 9 and 10 – have an all-rounder theme with competitors selecting one event out of two in three groups – for the boys, 2 laps or 4 laps, standing long jump or standing triple jump and shot or speed bounce. With one event change, vertical jump replacing the standing triple jump, the groupings are the same for the girls.

In each event, pupils are rank-ordered on their performance and allocated points for their placing. The points from the three events are totalled to provide a ranking in the All Rounder competition. The aim is to encourage children to start thinking ahead to the Combined Events competitions in the summer season.

Thanks to the encouragement from their staff over many years, pupils from Cowbridge School have a wealth of experience at this aspect of athletics so it is no surprise to find them finishing in top position in some events.

In the boys' competition, year-9 George Griffiths, the 2010 UK Sportshall under-13 standing long jump champion, claimed victory in that event with a 2.65 metres best. As a 11 metres plus performer with the 4 kg shot, he was clearly upset to find that he was only allowed standing throws in that event because, with no circle available, the competition had to be decided as a linear competition rather than in a sector. As a result, he was well down on past performances with only 9.20 metres, well behind his team-mate Rafi Sharzid, who made up in speed of technique what he lacked in size to claim an event win with a 10.50 metres put.

George, who recently won the under-15 (years 8 and 9) 60 metres and long jump at the Welsh Indoor championships at the National Indoor Athletics Centre in Cyncoed, also had a non scoring attempt in the standing triple jump, landing at 8.16 metres, which was better than the 7.90 metres credited to event winner, year-10 Elis Wyn Benham (YG Glantaf).

In the Boys All Rounder, a win in the standing long jump, plus fifth in the shot and third in the two laps, was enough for young Griffiths to claim second spot behind year-10 Aymen Abdullah (Cardiff High).

In the equivalent girls' competition, Caitlin Allin and Sarah Lewis were joint fastest over the 2 lap sprint while Lili Evans produced the best vertical jump and Izzy Eddy Williams, the 2010 Welsh Sportshall under-13 standing long jump champion, was the best pupil in the speed bounce, and also finished second in the All Rounder competition. All four girls attend Cowbridge School.

At under-13, all pupils can compete in up to three individual events.

The undoubted top performer in the boys' competitions was Tom Trotman, the 2010 Welsh Sportshall under-13 4 laps champion. The Cowbridge year-8 finished top in the 2 laps, high jump and shot, with encouraging performances in all three. Joining him as event winners were two more Cowbridge year-8 pupils, Rian Thomas, who showed that his encouraging form over the country, which has resulted in his call-up to represent Cardiff & the Vale Schools in the years 8 and 9 race at the Aviva Welsh Schools National cross-country championships at Brecon on March 16, has given him a good base for the 6 laps time-trial while Kristian Jones took the speed bounce.

Llantwit girls made their presence felt with two wins at under-13, Molly Brown setting the fastest 2 laps time and Tamara Pitt claiming the high jump title with a clearance at 1.30 metres. There were also three more titles for Cowbridge pupils with wins for Ela Emyr (4 laps), Ellie Eddy-Williams (standing long jump) and Seren Allin (6 laps time-trial).

This was the first year that Stanwell pupils have competed and, although there were no Stanwell winners, the athletes will have gained valuable experience, and we look forward to them making a major impact next winter.

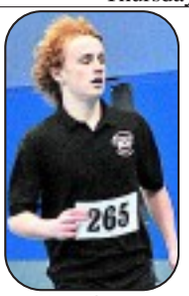
All the pupils named as event winners will receive their award at the Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Track and Field presentation evening, which will probably be held in early September with Cardiff High as the likely venue.

Following these four championships, Miss Sarah Moore (Willows) and her team managers will select the teams of 12 pupils in both under-13 sections and 7 pupils at under-15 to represent Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan district at the Aviva Welsh Sportshall Finals, which will be held at Cwmbran Leisure Centre on Sunday, March 6.

RESULTS OF VALE PUPILS

Under-15 boys – 2 Laps, 3 George Griffiths (Cow) 20.3; 4= Scott Laken (Cow) 20.8; 14= Chris Powell (Cow) 21.3; 17= David Pain (Stan) 21.5; 22= Elis Vandyck (Stan) 21.7; 31 Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 22.5; 33 Myles Harding (Stan) 22.7; 35 Max Bramhill (Stan) 23.1; 37 James Parker (Stan) 23.4; 38 Tato Katsikeas (Stan) 23.5; 39 Matt Holder (Stan) 25.8.
4 Laps, 6 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 46.0; 18 Tom Geen (Stan) 49.7.
Standing long jump, 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 2.65; 5 Scott Laken (Cow) 2.44; 6 David Pain (Stan) 2.38; 10 Chris Powell (Cow) 2.31; 17 Elis Vandyck (Stan) 2.20; 22 James Parker (Stan) 2.14; 26 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 2.11; 37 Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 1.96; 41 Tato Katsikeas (Stan) 1.90; 43= Myles Harding (Stan) 1.84; 43= Stavros Katsikeas (Stan) 1.82; 46 Matt Holder (Stan) 1.74;
Standing triple jump; 10 Tom Geen (Stan) 5.80; 11 Max Bramhill (Stan) 5.76; ns George Griffiths (Cow) 8.16.
Shot (4 kg), 1 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 10.50; 5 George Griffiths (Cow) 9.20; 10 Riyal Auchbarally (Stan) 8.80; 16 James Parker (Stan) 8.10; 18 Matt Holder (Stan) 7.90; 19 Scott Laken (Cow) 7.60; 21 Chris Powell (Cow) 7.40.
Speed bounce, 6= Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 70; 13= David Pain (Stan) 69; 15= Tato Katsikeas (Stan) 68; 20= Myles Harding (Stan) 64; 22= Elis Vandyck (Stan) 63; 29 Stavros Katsikeas (Stan) 59; 30 Tom Geen (Stan) 56; 31 Max Bramhill (Stan) 46.
All-rounder points competition – 2 George Griffiths (Cow) 288; 12 Scott Laken (Cow) 249; 16 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 240; 19 David Pain (Stan) 231; 24 Chris Powell (Cow) 215; 33 Elis Vandyck (Stan) 181; 40= James Parker (Stan) 156; 40= Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 152; 43= Max Bramhill (Stan) 152; 47 Riyal Auchbarally (Stan) 114; 48= Myles Harding (Stan) 111; 50 Matt Holder (Stan) 100.
Under-13 boys – 2 Laps, 1 Tom Trotman (Cow) 21.3; 6= Nathan Robson (Cow) 22.5; 8= Kwabena Fordjour (Stan) 22.6; 8= William Gale (Stan) 22.6; 10= Scott Thomas (Cow) 22.7; 17= Tom Collins (Stan) 23.4; 17= William Brown (Stan) 23.4; 21= Dan Oddy (Cow) 23.5; 21= Harri Thomas (Cow) 23.5; 29 Harrison Stephens (Cow) 23.9; 30= Will Marsh (Stan) 24.0; 34 Josh Lewis (Stan) 24.1; 42= David Flanigan (Stan) 25.0; 44 Tomos Marsh (Stan) 25.3; 47 Ben Tanner (Stan) 25.7.
4 Laps, 5 Kristian Jones (Cow) 48.6; 6= Kwabena Fordjour (Stan) 49.4; 8= Alex Love (Cow) 49.6; 21= Josh Lewis (Stan) 53.0; 36 Tomos Marsh (Stan) 59.2.
6 Laps, 1 Rian Thomas (Cow) 76.2; 2 Ellis Rosser (Cow) 77.3; 5 Spencer Robinson (Stan) 79.3; 8 Zac Dyer (Stan) 81.2; 11 Alex Langrish (Stan) 82.2; 12 David Flanigan (Stan) 82.3; 15 Will Marsh (Stan) 83.5; 21 Huw Bennett (Cow) 90.3; 23 Rhys Fford (Stan) 92.0.
Standing long jump, 3 Rian Thomas (Cow) 2.24; 4 Kwabena Fordjour (Stan) 2.22; 6 Scott Thomas (Cow) 2.10; 7 Harrison Stephens (Cow) 2.08; 13 Spencer Robinson (Stan) 2.00; 14 Dan Oddy (Cow) 1.98; 15 William Gale (Stan) 1.98; 18 Alex Love (Cow) 1.96; 26 Tom Collins (Stan) 1.90; 27 William Brown (Stan) 1.90.
Standing triple jump, 2 Ben Tanner (Stan) 5.76; 6 Zac Dyer (Stan) 5.47; 7 Dafydd Manley Glantaf 5.42; 10 Nicholas Rees (Cow) 5.26; 16 Sam Aston (Cow) 4.68.
High jump, 1 Tom Trotman (Cow) 1.40; 8 Nicholas Rees (Cow) 1.10; 10= Huw Bennett (Cow) 1.10.
Vertical jump, 3= Ellis Rosser (Cow) 42; 11 Alex Langrish (Stan) 38; 12 Scott Thomas (Cow) 37; 16= Zac Dyer (Stan) 34; 16= Alex Love (Cow) 34; 20 Sam Aston (Cow) 32; 24 Edwards Couzens (Cow) 24.
Speed bounce, 1 Kristian Jones (Cow) 50; 2= Dan Oddy (Cow) 49; 5= Will Marsh (Stan) 48; 11= David Flanigan (Stan) 46; 14 Harri Thomas (Cow) 45; 15= Rhys Fford (Stan) 43; 15= Tomos Marsh (Stan) 43; 15= Alex Langrish (Stan) 43; 15= Josh Lewis (Stan) 43; 19= Spencer Robinson (Stan) 42; 19= Rian Thomas (Cow) 42; 24= Scott Thomas (Cow) 40; 34= Tom Collins (Stan) 35; 36= William Brown (Stan) 31.
Shot (3.25kg), 1 Tom Trotman (Cow) 10.30; 7 Edwards Couzens (Cow) 7.50; 10 Craig Boxall (Cow) 6.90; 11 Ben Tanner (Stan) 6.85; 14 Tom Collins (Stan) 6.50; 15 Nathan Robson (Cow) 6.50; 16 William Gale (Stan) 6.40; 18 Harri Thomas (Cow) 6.20; 20 Alex Langrish (Stan) 5.85; 21 Harrison Stephens (Cow) 5.85; 23 Sam Aston (Cow) 5.60; 27 Will Marsh (Stan) 4.85; 30 Tomos Marsh (Stan) 4.30.
Under-15 girls – 2 Laps, 1= Sarah Lewis (Cow) 23.2; 1= Caitlin Allin (Cow) 23.2; 3 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 23.4; 4 Lili Evans (Cow) 23.5; 7= Georgia Lott (Cow) 23.7; 11= Hannah Gaskin (Cow) 24.1; 15 Natasha Johnson (Cow) 24.5; 17 Phoebe Nixon (Lwt) 24.7; 19 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 25.3.
4 Laps, 3 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 49.0; 5 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 50.8; 6 Kate Coker (Stan) 51.6; 7 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 51.8; 8 Annabel Curle (Cow) 51.9; 9= Erin Hayes (Lwt) 52.7; 9= Nancie Edwards (Cow) 54.3; 11 Megan Brown (Cow) 54.6; 12 Bethan White (Cow) 57.6.
Standing long jump, 2 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 2.22; 3 Caitlin Allin (Cow) 2.06; 4 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 2.05; 7 Natasha Johnson (Cow) 2.00; 8 Annabel Curle (Cow) 1.94; 9 Phoebe Nixon (Lwt) 1.91; 11 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 1.89; 13 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 1.82; 14 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 1.80; 17 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 1.72; 20 Megan Brown (Cow) 1.68; 21 Kate Coker (Stan) 1.67; 22 Bethan White (Cow) 1.62.
Vertical jump, 1 Lili Evans (Cow) 53; 5 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 42; 7 Hannah Gaskin (Cow) 38; 8 Georgia Lott (Cow) 38; 9 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 36.
Shot (3.25kg), 6 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 6.20; 7 Hannah Gaskin (Cow) 6.00; 13 Georgia Lott (Cow) 4.70.
Speed bounce, 1 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 75; 3 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 68; 4= Caitlin Allin (Cow) 66; 7= Alice Nottingham (Stan) 65; 7= Lili Evans (Cow) 65; 9= Annabel Curle (Cow) 63; 11 Natasha Johnson (Cow) 62; 12= Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 59; 12= Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 59; 14 Bethan White (Cow) 56; 16 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 53; 17 Kate Coker (Stan) 52; 18 Phoebe Nixon (Lwt) 47; 20 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 37.
All-rounder points competition – 2 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 294; 4= Caitlin Allin (Cow) 287; 4= Sarah Lewis (Cow) 287; 7 Lili Evans (Cow) 281; 9 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 277; 11= Hannah Gaskin (Cow) 255; 11= Annabel Curle (Cow) 255; 13 Georgia Lott (Cow) 249; 14= Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 245; 17 Natasha Johnson (Cow) 240; 19 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 238; 20= Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 233; 20= Erin Hayes (Lwt) 233; 25 Nancie Edwards (Cow) 219; 26= Kate Coker (Stan) 218; 26= Phoebe Nixon (Lwt) 218; 29 Bethan White (Cow) 210; 34 Megan Brown (Cow) 142.
Under-13 girls – 2 Laps, 1 Molly Brown (Lwt) 24.3; 2= Olivia Hamzelou (Stan) 24.8; 4 Sally Gambling (Cow) 24.9; 6 Tizzie Birch-Hurst (Stan) 25.1; 12= Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 25.7; 22= Gabby Swift (Cow) 26.1; 22= Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 26.1; 29= Aimee Miller (Lwt) 26.4; 31 Jess Boland (Stan) 26.6; 32 Laurie Thomas (Cow) 26.7; 45= Ffion Vickers (Cow) 28.1.
4 Laps, 1 Ela Emyr (Cow) 52.7; 4 Ellie Eddy-Williams (Cow) 54.2; 6 Hayley Stroud (Stan) 54.9; 8 Ellie Medicott (Cow) 55.6; 9= Kim Jerwood (Cow) 55.7; 15 Rachel Bent (Cow) 57.0; 19 Caitlin Jones (Cow) 58.9.
6 Laps, 1 Seren Allin (Cow) 81.6; 3 Maya Bell (Cow) 84.6; 6 Seren Marsh (Stan) 86.2; 8 Maisie Squire (Stan) 87.0; 10 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 88.2; 11 Ysobelle Williams B of Llandaff 90.9; 13 Jemma Viney (Cow) 98.4.
Standing long jump, 1 Ellie Eddy-Williams (Cow) 2.07; 3 Maya Bell (Cow) 2.00; 6 Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 1.92; 8 Aimee Miller (Lwt) 1.90; 10 Rebecca Villis (Stan) 1.87; 13 Olivia Hamzelou (Stan) 1.86; 15 Seren Allin (Cow) 1.82; 16 Molly Brown (Lwt) 1.81; 17 Seren Marsh (Stan) 1.80; 24 Gabby Swift (Cow) 1.74; 25 Laurie Thomas (Cow) 1.70; 28 Maisie Squire (Stan) 1.66; 29 Rachel Bent (Cow) 1.65; 35 Kersey Murray (Stan) 1.58; 44 Megan McNamee (Cow) 1.45.
Standing Triple Jump, 4 Rachel Bent (Cow) 5.20; 5 Ellie Medicott (Cow) 5.18; 8 Olivia Hamzelou (Stan) 4.76; 10 Jemma Viney (Cow) 4.67; 11 Kim Jerwood (Cow) 4.66; 12 Georgia Atkinson (Stan) 4.62; 15 Caitlin Jones (Cow) 4.50; 17 Tizzie Birch-Hurst (Stan) 4.48.
High jump, 1 Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 1.30.
Vertical jump, 2 Hayley Stroud (Stan) 43; 5 Ela Emyr (Cow) 40; 9 Sally Gambling (Cow) 37; 14 Rebecca Villis (Stan) 35; 17 Tizzie Birch-Hurst (Stan) 34; 18 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 33; 23= Jess Boland (Stan) 32; 25 Ffion Vickers (Cow) 32; 26 Georgia Atkinson (Stan) 32; 27 Emma Llewellyn (Stan) 32; 34 Kersey Murray (Stan) 28; 35 Ellie Mahoney (Stan) 24.
Speed bounce, 6= Sally Gambling (Cow) 64; 8= Seren Allin (Cow) 63; 8= Maya Bell (Cow) 63; 13 Seren Marsh (Stan) 61; 14= Jemma Viney (Cow) 60; 14= Megan McNamee (Cow) 60; 18 Molly Brown (Lwt) 59; 19= Ffion Vickers (Cow) 58; 22= Ela Emyr (Cow) 56; 24= Rachel Bent (Cow) 55; 28= Kim Jerwood (Cow) 53; 30= Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 52; 33 Megan Hain (Stan) 49; 34= Ellie Mahoney (Stan) 48; 34= Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 48; 38 Gabby Swift (Cow) 47.
Shot (2.72Kg), 4 Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 6.90; 6 Ellie Eddy-Williams (Cow) 6.30; 10 Emma Llewellyn (Stan) 6.00; 11 Megan Hain (Stan) 5.80; 17 Ellie Medicott (Cow) 5.20; 21 Laurie Thomas (Cow) 4.80; 22 Caitlin Jones (Cow) 4.70; 23 Maisie Squire (Stan) 4.70.

Report PETER MORRIS
Photographs IAN DIXON



Rian Thomas (Cowbridge).

George Griffiths.

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THE Vale Resort was recognised as the 'UK's most enjoyable golf course' at the inaugural 59 Club awards dinner, established to recognise excellence in golf.

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Cricketer's local sponsorship

WHEN Glamorgan cricketer Ben-James Wright was looking for sponsorship to support his career playing off season in Australia he looked towards Cowbridge, and Oscars restaurant.

Ben played for Cowbridge Cricket Club until he was 17, then signed for Glamorgan. Ben also represented England under-19s in the 2005 World Cup and captained England under-19's test team in 2007.

"I would like to thank everyone involved with Oscars for the sponsorship," he said. "The past couple of years I have been lucky enough to travel to Australia to play during the off-season and improve my skills and the help I have received ensures that I will be able to travel to Adelaide again."

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Cowbridge under-8s do well in their round robin games

COWBRIDGE under-8s played round robin games against Llantwit Major and Sully Sports at Llantwit Major on Sunday 27 February.

Game 1: Llantwit Major 2 – Cowbridge 8

IN the first game, Cowbridge played a mixed Llantwit Major under-7s and under-8s team, who showed great commitment and effort despite their inexperience.

Cowbridge's strength, however, was teamwork which led to them overwhelming their opponents.

What was particularly enjoyable about this game was the fun that was clearly being had by the children involved.

There were numerous excellent passing movements by the Cowbridge boys, some of whom are showing huge improvement, notably Sam Coates and Harry Holtam, who scored his first try and then went on to score another.

Special mention to Tom Johnson for his three tries; other try scorers were Elis Howell, Dewi Williams, Sam Coates and Harry Holtam (two).

Team: Sam Coates, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Harry Holtam, Elis Howell, Tom Johnson and Dewi Williams.

Game 2: Llantwit Major 4 – Cowbridge 7

COWBRIDGE played Llantwit Major's under-8s in the second game.

Conditions were horrendous, and both teams were very evenly matched.

The difference between them was the contribution made by Jake Williams, who scored five tries.

A little more teamwork and a stronger defence would lead to a marked improvement but the boys were affected by the conditions.

Tries: Oliver Jarmain (two) and Jake Williams (five)

Team: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Iestyn Owen and Jake Williams.

Game 3: Sully 6, Cowbridge 4

HAVING only had time to put tracksuits on, this team was required to play Sully Sports while the above team played Llantwit Major.

Cowbridge ran in the first try straight from the kickoff with Owen Godsall crossing the line after receiving the ball from the kick off.

Cowbridge didn't have it all their own way, however, and the scores were never more than a try apart until the very end of the game. Iwan-Thomas Bartle crossed the line following a good passing sequence from Cowbridge, and with both teams suffering from the cold, Dewi Williams showed good strength in crossing the line from a fifth tag restart close to the Sully line.

This brought Cowbridge back level at half time with the score at 3–3.

Cowbridge crossed the line on a number of occasions during the second half; however only one try was awarded with James Gilvear closing Cowbridge's account with a fourth try and bringing the score level at 4–4.

Some very cold and wet players on both teams resulted in Sully scoring two further tries before the referee blew up for the end of the game.

Tries: Owen Godsall, Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Dewi Williams and James Gilvear.

Team: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Harry Holtam, Elis Howell, Tom Johnson and Dewi Williams.

JS and GW

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIORS PULL AWAY WITH STRONG SECOND HALF

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-10s welcomed Sully, coming off the back of two near losses to Pentyrch and Glamorgan Wanderers.

The boys started well with Mason Richardson, debuting at scrum half after being drafted in from his wing position, making an immediate difference.

Flying fullback Iwan Robinson-Booth glided his way through the Sully defence to put the first points on the board and also converted his try.

Poor defence let Sully put points on the board but a quick ball from a Dylan Holloway run saw Owen Hodge bolster his way through to score seconds before the whistle; conversion missed.

Llantwit played really well in the first half but the result didn't reflect the first half performance.

Debutant Brandon made line breaks and caused Sully problems, Joss Harris sent the visitors backwards with the ball in hand, and Dylan Chamberlain caused the opposition problems with his speed, but it wasn't quite enough and the half time score was 12–7.

In the second half, Llantwit brought on Owen Evans, Liam Palmer, Max Greve, Dom Henson, William Cummings-Jones and Luc Williams, who made an instant impact.

It started with a monstrous kick off by Dom and a dropped ball from the visitors saw William turn the ball over and present it to half back Max, who, with a quick look, sent the ball to the backs and saw Luc Williams score a perfectly executed try. The conversion was missed.

Llantwit kicked off once again with Dom's big boot, Luc and Liam chased the ball down and the Sully boys completely missed the ball.

It bounced perfectly into Luc's hands for his second try, which Iwan converted.

Llantwit then really started putting pressure on the Sully side, and Luc scored yet another try which Iwan converted.

Fullback Iwan crashed through again for a second try which he converted.

Hat-trick hero Luc made it four, and Iwan converted once again. The final score was 57–7 to Llantwit.

An excellent display by all. Thanks go to the opposition who gave it their all and kept their heads up until the final whistle.

Squad: Joss Harris (captain), Dom Henson, Bruno Jeziorski, Jou Guerreiro, Joshua Dunn, Dylan Holloway, Dylan Chamberlain, William Cummings Jones, Brandon , Mason Richardson, Max Greve, Owen Hodge, Iwan Robinson-Booth, Liam Palmer, Luc Williams, Owen Evans.

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CHELTENHAM RACE EVENING

ANDREW LOWRIE, head of Optimum Racing, is arranging an informative and fun Cheltenham preview evening at the VIP Piano Lounge, Cardiff Bay, on Thursday, March 10, at 7pm.

Joining Andrew on the panel will be Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, racing expert Mark Holdert and Richard Kiloran, conditional jockey to leading trainer Nicky Henderson.

Any profits from the sale of tickets will go to local charities and tickets can be obtained from Andrew at 01446 722463.

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2004 54 RENAULT Megane Dynamique VVT 136 Convertible 2-Door Convertible. Remote central locking, e/mirrors, air con £4,695

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2007 07 TOYOTA Avensis T2 D-4D 5-Door Hatchback. Central locking, remote central locking, front electric windows £5,795

2007 57 VAUXHALL Vectra Exclusive CDTi 150 5-Door Estate. Service history, central locking, air conditioning.....£4,995

2007 57 FORD Mondeo Edge 5-Door Hatchback. Remote central locking, front electric windows, electric mirrors.....£6,495

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06 56 DAIHATSU SIRION 1.3 SX 5DR

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06 56 VW BEETLE 1.6

£6975

GENERAL SELECTION

- 03 03 FORD FOCUS 2.0 ST 3DR 170 IN MET GREY £3975
- 04 54 DAIHATSU SIRION 1.3 SE 5DR 3 SPEED PAS E/W, CD, ALLOYS, FULL BODY KIT, BLACK, 48K £4475
- 05 54 PEUGEOT 206 GTI 3DR IN MOONSTONE, HALF LEATHER, 38K MILES £4475
- 04 04 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 SE IN MET GREY 45K MILES £4975
- 04 54 CITROEN C3 1.4SX 5DR IN SILVER, CENTRE ARMREST ONLY 17K MILES £4995
- 07 57 CHEVROLET TACUMA 1.6 SX 5DR 25K MILES IN SILVER £4975
- 06 56 GRAND FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5DR IN WHITE 21K MILES HAS ELEC WINDOWS £4995
- 09 59 SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 GLX 5DR IN BLUE 7K MILES £4775
- 08 58 FORD FUSION 1.4 ZETEC IN MET SILVER 23K MILES £4475
- 07 57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE 5DR IN SPLASHMINT WITH ALLOYS 15K MILES £4995
- 06 56 VW BEETLE 1.6 LUNA IN BLUE 31 K MILES £4975
- 09 59 SUZUKI SPLASH 1.2 GLS 5DR ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ALLOYS, 7K MILES £5475
- 09 59 FIAT 500 POP IN SILVER RED AND CREAM INTERIOR £5475
- 08 58 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi 3DR IN SILVER ONLY 17K MILES £5995
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- 08 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR IN RISION BLUE ONE OWNER UNDER 31K MILES £5995

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- 08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1.6 EXPRESSION WITH AIR CONDITIONING 30K MILES £4995
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- 08 08 SKODA FABIA COMF 1.4 16V AUTO IN MET BLUE, C/L, CD, A/C, E/WINDOWS, 30K £5995
- 07 57 FORD FIESTA 1.6 STYLE AUTO IN BLACK 28K MILES £5975
- 07 57 RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 AUTHENTIQUE IN MET RED, 33K MILES £5975
- 07 57 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 ACENTA IN MET GREY, ALLOYS, AIR CON ONLY 23K MILES £6775
- 07 57 VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.8 DESIGN IN BLACK, ALLOYS, HALF LEATHER £6975
- 07 07 TOYOTA AURIS TS 1.6 VVTI 5DR IN MET GREY 24K MILES £6975
- 07 07 HYUNDAI SONATA 2.0 CRTD CDX 4DR IN MET GREY WITH FULL LEATHER INTERIOR £6975
- 07 57 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN IN MET BLUE, HALF LEATHER, 20K MILES £6995

DIESEL

- 04 54 FORD MONDEO 2.0 LX TDCI 5DR IN WHITE 70K MILES £3475
- 03 03 MAZDA 6 2.0D TD2 HATCHBACK IN SILVER 62K MILES £3575
- 05 55 SAAB 93 BHEAM 1.9 TID IN MET GREY, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, 81K MILES £3995
- 05 54 VW GOLF 1.9 SE TDI 5DR ALLOYS 72K MILES £4775
- 07 07 HYUNDAI SONATA 2.0 CRTD CDX 4DR IN MET GREY WITH FULL LEATHER INTERIOR £4975
- 08 58 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI CAICHET DIESEL IN MET SILVER 5DR, ALLOYS, A/C, CD, 29K MILES £4995
- 07 57 FORD MONDEO 2.0 ST TDCI 5DR IN MET BLACK WITH BLACK LEATHER 55K MILES £5995
- 08 57 FORD CMAX 1.8 TDCI ZETEC IN SILVER ONLY 29K MILES £5975
- 04 54 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI XS IN BLACK WITH BLACK LEATHER, ALLOY WHEELS, LOOKS STUNNING £5975
- 07 57 RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.6 TDV6 HSE IN BLACK WITH BLACK LEATHER, 22" OPERRENCH ALLOYS, FULL BODY KIT, RUNNING BOARDS, 57K MILES £20995

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- 99 V MAZDA MX-5 CONVERTIBLE 1.8 3DR IN GOOD LOOKED CONDITION 85K MILES £3475

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- 06 57 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 SRi CLUB IN SILVER LIGHTNING 18K MILES £7775
- 06 57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE 5DR, MET BLUE WITH ONLY 13K MILES £7975
- 06 57 CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO VTR+ 1.6 5DR MPV IN RISION BLUE EX MOTABILITY UNDER 13K £8475
- 09 59 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO IN TANGO 21 K MILES £8475

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MAZDA 2 TAMURA

Mazda Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Mazda2 1.3 5dr Tamura													
36 monthly payments	Mazda Deposit Contribution†	Dealer Contribution†	On the Road price	Customer deposit	Amount of credit	Interest charges	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Annual mileage	Excess mileage charge per mile	Duration of agreement (Years)	Fixed rate of interest	Representative
£159	£750	£350	£11,584.69	£1,808.50	£9,096.19	£1,222.06	£4,594.25	£13,226.75	9,000	14.9p	3	3.04%	5.9% APR*

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the upgraded Mazda2 range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 146 - 110.

All offers for retail sales & subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 4 January and 31 March 2011. Offers may be varied and withdrawn at any time. *5.9% Finance available over 3 years and 3.9% finance available over 2 years on all upgraded Mazda2 models. †Mazda deposit contribution available on upgraded Mazda2 5dr TS and Tamura models when financed on Mazda personal contract purchase and only valid until 28 February 2011. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services IRH ISR. ‡Service offer: Available on upgraded Mazda2 Tamura and Takara models with Mazda Personal Contract Purchase finance only: 3 year finance agreement available with 3 years complimentary servicing or 30,580 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of 3 services. 2 year finance agreement available with 2 years complimentary servicing or 25,800 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of 2 services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturers scheduled servicing only at a participating Mazda Authorised dealer. Terms & Conditions Apply. ^VAT offer: All upgraded Mazda2 models available with VAT at the equivalent of 17.5%. Mazda's VAT offer applies to the current retail list price and excludes the first registration fee, road tax and all factory fitted and dealer fitted options that will be charged at the standard 2011 VAT rate, currently set at 20%. Model shown: Upgraded Mazda2 1.3 5dr Tamura, OTR £11,585. Model shown includes metallic paint (£420). On the road price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. †Test drives subject to applicant status and availability.

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MAZDA 3 TS

Mazda Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS													
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£199	£1,500	£950	£15,229.79	£2,485.50	£10,714.29	£1,399.71	£4,950.00	£17,049.50	12,000	14.9p	3	3.04%	5.9% APR*

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda3 range (excl. MPS): Urban 26.7 (10.6) - 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 46.3 (6.1) - 72.4 (3.9), Combined 37.2 (7.6) - 64.2 (4.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 176 - 117.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 15 February & 31 March 2011. Offers may be varied & withdrawn at any time. Terms & conditions apply. *5.9% finance available over 3 years on all Mazda3 models. †£1,500 Mazda deposit contribution and £950 dealer deposit contribution available on Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS petrol when financed on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. 18's or over. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services IRH ISR. ^VAT offer: All petrol Mazda3 models (excluding MPS) available with VAT at the equivalent of 17.5%. VAT offer applies to the current retail list price only. First registration fee, road tax & all options will be charged at the standard 2011 VAT rate, currently at 20%. Model shown: Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS, OTR £15,230. Model shown includes metallic paint (£420). On the road price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. ◊Test drives subject to applicant status and availability.

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Trainer Tim has high hopes for horse!

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan is hoping that his nine-year-old chestnut gelding *Beshaba*, owned by Mrs Margaret Findlay, and who scored at Doncaster last week, will give him his first winner at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival.

Beshaba, who was brought down when travelling really well the last time he ran at Cheltenham, has a choice of races but is likely to run in the National Hunt Chase, a four mile race for amateur riders.

Meanwhile, it was nice to see Emily Jones, who hails from the Vale, win on *Captain Cool* at Wolverhampton last week.

Emily, who has also ridden winners over the jumps and between-the-flags, would have surely reached the top had she been given more support by owners and trainers.

Anyone looking for a rider should give Jason 'Awesome' Cook a call on 07912 359425. Jason, who won the national novice point-to-point riders' championship in 2000, recently returned to the saddle after a five-year absence. He says that he found that working as a senior assistant at Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard – he left last September – didn't give him much time to compete in races.

The Brecon & Talybont Hunt hold their annual point-to-point races at Llanfrynach next Saturday (March 5). First race at 1pm.

TUDOR REIGNS

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor landed the men's open race on the Alan Hill-trained *Start Royal* at the Waveney Harriers Hunt Steeplechases at Higam last Sunday.

Another Welsh rider, Paul Tolman, won the intermediate race on Mr J McMahon's *Princess de Rome* at the South Pool Harriers meeting at Buckfastleigh.

Meanwhile at Market Rasen, *Spirit of Adjisa* took the TurfTV Novices Hurdle for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan. The top-weighted favourite, ridden by Richard Johnson, won by 10 lengths from *TipToeAway*.

College students help rugby-playing under-10s

'IT'S SCRUM TIME!'

FIRST year Welsh Baccalaureate students from two construction departments at Barry College have combined their talents to help out a local junior rugby team as part of their 'community participation' module.

The carpentry students constructed a miniature scrum machine during practical lessons, which was then donated to Rumney Rugby Club's under-10 side. The team are coached by Barry College carpentry lecturer David Lowery.

The scrum machine was then painted in Rumney's colours by students from college lecturer Colin Simpson's painting and decorating department during their practical lessons.

Under the Welsh Baccalaureate, which runs alongside and complements other qualifications, students must carry out work-related education, team enterprise and community participation modules.

ABOVE: The Pathway to Apprenticeship Carpentry students from Barry College who constructed the scrum machine.

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Thursday, March 10 at 1.30pm, 'Limestone and Bluebells' walk, starting from the car park opposite the Fox & Hounds, St Brides Major.

On Sunday, March 13 at 2pm, Dave's coast walk, starting at Redbrink Crescent.

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06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 20,010 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers.....**£9,995**

07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles.....**£6,495**

4X4

07 07 LANDROVER Range Rover Sport 2.7 TD V6 HSE 5-dr Station Wagon Automatic. In Stornaway grey with black leather interior, climate control, cruise control, privacy glass heated front screen, only 29,500 miles.....**£31,995**

07 07 KIA Sorento 2.5 CRDi XE Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon in quartz grey/purple with grey interior, air con, CD, roof rails, four wheel drive, service history, only 36,500 miles **£12,995**

03 53 SUZUKI Jimny 1.2 02 Edition 3Dr Soft Top Convertible. In black with anthracite interior, CD, electric windows, alloy wheels, only 36,700 miles **£4,995**

02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles **£9,995**

PRESTIGE

07 07 MERCEDES BENZ CLK 1.8 CLK200 Kompressor Sport Cabriolet Automatic. In Tellurium silver with black leather interior, electric seats with memory, parktronic system, 18" AMG alloy wheels, cruise control, only 36,760 miles **£21,995**

07 07 BMW 520d SE 2.0Ltd 4-Dr Saloon. In Monaco blue with black leather interior, 17" alloy wheels, automatic air con, cruise control, traction control system, only 55,400 miles **£12,995**

05 55 BMW 2.0 TD 320 DSE 4-dr Saloon. In sparkling graphite grey, cloth interior, air con, rear parking aid, cd, traction control system, only 54,810 miles.....**£10,495**

06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 20,010 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£9,995**

05 55 ASTON MARTIN DB9 5.9 Volante 2-dr Convertible Sequential. In metallic blue with beige leather interior, cruise control, sat nav system, rear parking aid, wood trim, only 7,220 miles .....**£POA**

03 52 BMW 7 Series 745i 4.4 saloon automatic. In titanium silver with black leather interior, rear parking sensors, multi cd, electric memory seats, alloy wheeels, one owner, only 70,360 miles.....**£8,495**

02 52 MERCEDES Benz CLK 2.6 240 Avantgarde 2-dr Coupe. In Tanzanite blue with alpaca grey leather interior, luxury climate control, Parktronic sensors, cruise control, service history, only 73,400 miles.....**£7,495**

02 02 JAGUAR X-type 2.5 V6 Automatic Sport 4-dr Saloon. In Anthracite Black with Sand sport leather interior, reverse park control, automatic climate control, cruise control, privacy glass, colour coded bumpers, only 70,080 miles.....**£4,995**

01 Y MERCEDES BENZ C-Class 2.0 C200 Kompressor Elegance 4-dr Saloon in brilliant silver with orion grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, one owner, full service history, only 67,000 miles...**£4,995**

SPORTS

06 06 BMW 3.0 TD MSport Automatic 4-dr Saloon in met black with beige leather in terior, electric folding mirrors, automatic air con, MV-2 alloy wheels, traction control system, only 58,900 miles...**£15,995**

09 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles.....**£9,995**

09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles **£13,495**

09 09 PEUGEOT 207CC 1.6 16v 120 Sport Automatic Coupe Convertible. In Neysha blue with Xavier black interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, steering wheel mounted controls, only 15,260 miles...**£10,495**

07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback. In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles.....**£11,995**

07 07 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4i 16v sport 2-dr cabriolet in air blue with charcoal alpha interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, cd, front fogs, only 48,730 miles **£6,995**

06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles **£9,995**

05 05 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 T Fsi (200ps) GTi 5-dr Hatchback in tornado red with anthracite Vienna leather interior, parking sensors, heated front seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, onl 67,600 miles.....**£9,995**

06 55 RENAULT Megane 2.0 VVT 136 Privilege 2-dr Coupe Cabriolet. In metallic gold with magnolia leather interior, luxury pack, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, panoramic roof, only 9,250 mls **£6,995**

05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110 Sport 5-dr hatchback in flamenco red with black Merlin interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, body coloured bumpers, only 50,600 miles.....**£4,995**

05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles **£4,995**

05 05 MAZDA 3Sport 2.0 5Dr Hatchback. In winning blue with ebony cloth, 17" alloy wheels, climate control, multi CD, front fogs, only 57,390 miles **£5,995**

04 04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spd in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles **£6,995**

04 54 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles.....**£3,495**

03 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 VTec SE Sport 3-Dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles **£4,495**

03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles.....**£3,995**

89 G BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-dr Convertible. In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles.....**£4,995**

FAMILY

09 09 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 75 Verve 5-dr Hatchback. In onyx black with black interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, front fog lights, only 8,890 miles **£7,995**

09 58 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in stardust silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles **£12,995**

08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles.....**£7,995**

08 08 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-Dr Hatchback. In tango red with anthracite interior, quick clear screen, air con, CD, aux input, alloy wheels, only 10,700 miles **£6,995**

07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Stylance in metallic ruby red with stylance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles **£8,495**

07 57 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 16v SRi 5-dr MPV. In silver lightning with Silver Alpha Charcoal interior, air con, traction control system, alloy wheels, only 52.000 miles **£7,495**

07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles **£6,495**

07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£6,495**

05 54 AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback. In black with charcoal interior, CD, front fogs, climate control, alloy wheels, one owner only 60,300 miles **£6,995**

04 54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 Twist 3-dr Hatchback in indigo blue with anthracite interior, air con, electric heated mirrors, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 22,480 miles **£4,495**

04 04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£5,995**

SMALL

08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£7,995**

08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In poly silver with blue/black interior, air con, central locking, CD, colour coded bumpers, power steering, only 26,750 miles.....**£3,995**

08 08 MAZDA 2 1.3 TS 3-dr Hatchback. in icy blue with charcoal black interior, electric mirrors, front electric windows, power steering, CD, service history, only 29,800 miles **£6,795**

08 08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 5-dr Hatchback in Caldera black with black interior, electric front windows, p/steering, CD, centre rear seat belt, 1 owner, £35 a year road tax, only 18,100 miles.....**£5,495**

08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles.....**£4,495**

06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback. In tonic blue with Tungsten Denim blue interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric front windows, power steering, only 46,000 miles.....**£4,995**

06 56 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 Atlantic 3-dr hatchback. In sky blue with dark grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fogs, body coloured bumpers, alarm, 27,820 miles **£4,450**

04 04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles **£3,495**

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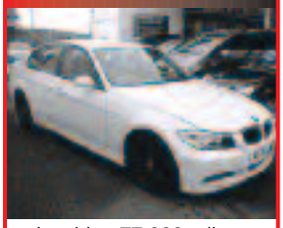
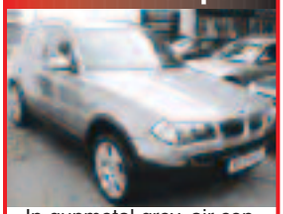
55 BMW Diesel SE



In white, 77,000 miles, upgraded alloys, superb example **£9,995**

04 BMW X3 Sport



In gunmetal grey, air con, abs, multiple airbags, alloy wheels, parking sensors, Leather upholstery, pas. **£9,995**

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02	**PORSCHE 911 Carrera 4S Tiptronic.** Silver w/black leather, 65,000 miles, just serviced Porsche Cardiff .	£22,995
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57	**MAZDA MX5 2.0 Sports.** In met blue with black leather heated seats, 12,000 miles, 1 owner.	£11,995
07	**FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec.** In silver, 61,000 miles, one owner, diesel 7 seater	£11,995
56	**BMW 520 Diesel SE.** In black, 69,000 miles, 1 owner, a/c, alloys, etc.	£11,995
04	**MERCEDES CLK 240 Convertible Auto.** In black with black leather trim, 66,000 miles, upgraded alloys	£11,995
55	**BMW 320 Diesel SE** in white, 77,000 miles, upgraded alloys, superb example	£9,995
08	**VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 Diesel SRi Auto.** In silver, 39,000 miles.	£8,995
54	**BMW 318Ci Sport convertible.** In red, 72,000 miles, fantastic value at	£8,995
54	**SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDi Auto** in silver beech met, 44,000 miles, 2 owners, 7-seater	£8,495
05	**HONDA Civic 2.0 Type R.** In black, 53,000 miles with air con, drives superb	£7,995
52	**AUDI TT Roadster '225'** In red with leather trim, 81,000 miles with Zenons, Bose multi CD etc.	£7,995
54	**MINI One Convertible.** In cool blue with full leather trim, 50,000 miles, host of extras	£6,995
04	**JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 SE Auto.** in sea frost silver with beige leather trim, 49,000 miles, 1 owner.	£6,995
03	**VW Beetle 2.0 convertible.** In ice blue, 52,000 miles, stylish 4 seater	£6,995
06	**FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£5,995
06	**TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi.** In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 private owner, sports coupe at	£5,995
03	**MERCEDES C220Di Avant Garde SE Auto** in black, 78,000 miles, diesel economy at	£5,995
54	**TOYOTA RAV4 2.0VVTi XT3.** In silver, 89,000 miles, 2 owners with leather trim	£4,995
05	**PEUGEOT 307 Convertible** In met. grey, low mileage example at	£5,695
03	**MAZDA MX5 1.8 Nevada** in met blue with grey leather sports seats, 52,000 miles, superb example.	£4,995
02	**MERCEDES C180 Elegance Auto.** In met-silver birch, 63,000 miles REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,995
56	**SMART Four Two 700 Passion Automatic Convertible.** In silver with black leather, heated seats, a/c	£4,695
03	**BMW 316i SE.** In steel blue, low mileage, local car at	£4,695
05	**SMART FourTwo 700, convertible.** In silver, 23,000 miles, auto, a/c, etc.	£4,495
53	**PEUGEOT 206cc 1.6 Convertible.** In silver, 31,000 mile example with full leather, a/c etc	£4,495
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06	**VW Beetle 2.0.** In met blue, 49,000 miles with a/c etc	£6,995
59	**TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Platinum 5-dr Auto.** In silver, 10,000 miles, 1 owner	£6,995
56	**TOYOTA Avensis T3S 2.0-4D 5-dr.** In sea mist silver, 73,000 mile diesel hatch at	£6,495
07	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Auto** In met-burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles	£5,995
07	**RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr.** In met graphite, 21,000 miles with air con.	£5,695
54	**FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr.** In electric blue, 73,000 miles, fantastic MPG.	£5,495
06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 Diesel Active.** In met blue, 42,000 miles, low insurance + road tax	£5,295
58	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto.** In met blue, 9,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,995
56	**MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic.** In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles.	£4,995
05	**FORD Focus 2.0 Titanium 5-Dr.** In black, 60,000 miles	£4,995
04	**TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3-S 5-dr.** In met blue, 73,000 miles.	£4,995
06	**CITROEN Picasso 2.0 Desire Auto.** Blue, very desirable car, 38,867 miles REDUCED BY £800 TO	£3,995
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06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life** In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc. REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,495
06	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Expression** in silver, low mileage example of this versatile model	£4,495
05	**CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi SX 5-dr.** In light met blue, 67,000 miles, diesel economy at	£4,495
06	**HYUNDAI Getz 1.1CDX 5-dr.** In black, 28,000 miles, superb example at	£4,295
07	**PEUGEOT 1007 1.4 'Delce'.** In met bronze, 29,000 miles, electric sliding doors etc	£3,995
06	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr.** In electric blue, 61,000 miles with a/c, cd, alloys	£3,995
55	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Life 5-dr Auto.** In met red, 33,000 miles, fantastic value at	£3,995
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53	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2SXi.** Met green, a/c, elec windows, very attractive car	£2,995
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamic 3-dr.** In black, 68,000 miles, alloys, sunroof.	£2,995
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52 Audi TT Roadster '225'

In red with leather trim, 81,000 miles with Zenons, Bose multi CD etc. **£7,995**

54 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi Titanium 3-dr

In electric blue, 73,000 miles, fantastic MPG **£5,495**

07 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Auto

In met burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles **£5,995**

56 MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic

In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles **£4,995**

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Llandow Kart Club 2011 season

KARTERS ARE BACK IN ACTION

Report: CRAIG LLEWELLYN
PHOTO: HARDY RODDE

AFTER what felt like the most fleeting of breaks, Llandow Kart Club swung back into action with the opening round of its 2011 season on a cold and blustery Sunday in late February.

Some 63 hardy competitors, including a healthy number of new faces and returning novices, combined to represent nine classes, although some were merged on track to provide meaningful grids.

After sitting out the Celtic Championships that closed the 2010 campaign, the Bambino class made a welcome return and, despite a low turnout compared to some meetings last season, provided some close competition between Max Fenlon, George Alp-Williams and Alex Austin before the former came out on top.

Honda Junior featured just one more runner, but welcomed back Daniel Jones to provide Welsh and Celtic champion Lloyd Sealy with some competition. Out of action for the second half of 2010, however, Jones could not prevent Sealy from taking a clean sweep of heat and final victories, but did enough to come in ahead of novices Danny Griffiths and Jack Hixon.

A combined field of 21 Cadets provided the biggest grid of the day, with Ryan Edwards and Brandon Patrick upholding Honda honour by sharing the heat wins before the group was split for separate finals. Edwards duly returned to the front of the pack to take victory in the Honda class, with Hugo Holmes and Daniel Thomas completing the podium after early leader Patrick dropped to fourth at the flag.

The Comer class was won by Louis Griffith-Walker, from Lucas Wynne and novice Tom Rawlings, but only after Wynne had come out on top in two of the three heats.

Junior TKM and Minimax were similarly combined to make a bigger field, and continued to run together throughout the day. Ross Chell swept the six-kart TKM field, with Scott Morris and Yousuf Ashraf giving chase in every encounter, while Lewis Malin appeared set to do likewise in Minimax before his kart failed on the dummy grid ahead of the final.

That disappointment allowed closest challenger Harry Williams to take an uncontested win in the main event, and the reigning Cadet champion gave a good account of himself by harrying Chell through the opening stages before settling for second on the road.

Novice Ellis Jackson, the sole Junior Blue runner, also found himself in the TKM/Minimax mix, but added a valuable signature to his licence after a clean weekend.

After some disappointing turnouts in 2010, the Honda Senior class gained strength with nine entrants, including a couple of novices. Without Chris Lipscombe to bother them, past and present club champions Gareth Lewis and Simon Evans shared the heat wins, before Evans eased to a six-second victory over his main rival in the final.

The returning Hugh Jones took second in heat two, but was equally delighted to take fourth in the final as veteran Paul Saunders completed the podium.

The two remaining Rotax classes closed proceedings, with the seven-strong Junior category providing some close racing behind Macaulay Austin, who swept to four wins in as many races.

Josh Gray provided the closest opposition with a brace of second places – including one in the final – although both Adam Berwick and James Johnson gave chase to Austin in the heats. Berwick could have caused the victor problems had he managed to start the final, but it was again left to Gray and Johnson to fill the podium places.

Ryan Edwards leads the Cadet class at the opening round of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 season.

Numbers in Senior Max were down from 2010, but the competition again proved exciting, despite the best efforts of debutant Josh Collings.

The reigning Junior champion made a big impression on his graduation to seniors, winning the first two heats, before class stalwart Matthew Dowers ended hopes of a clean sweep.

Collings was back on top in the final, however, easing to a four-second victory over his main rival, while Craig Mooney made the most of a lap one off for reigning champion Chris Davis to complete the podium.

Wayne Stone found some stern opposition in the Max 177 class, but eventually overcame the challenge of Richard Phillips to claim victory.

RESULTS

BAMBINO – 1, Max Fenlon; 2, Alex Austin (Tony); 3, George Alp-Williams (CRG).
JUNIOR HONDA – 1, Lloyd Sealy (MS); 2, Daniel Jones (MS); 3, Danny Griffiths (Wright).
CADET HONDA – 1, Ryan Edwards (Zip); 2, Hugo Holmes (Project One); 3, Daniel Thomas (Project One).
CADET COMER – 1, Louis Griffith-Walker (Zip); 2, Lucas Wynne (Zip); 3, Tom Rawlings (Zip).
JUNIOR TKM – 1, Ross Chell (Intrepid); 2, Scott Morris (CRG); 3, Yousuf Ashraf.
MINI MAX – 1, Harry Williams (Tonykart).
JUNIOR BLUE – 1, Ellis Jackson (Tonykart).
SENIOR HONDA – 1, Simon Evans (MS); 2, Gareth Lewis (MS); 3, Paul Saunders (7Kart).
JUNIOR ROTAX – 1, Macaulay Austin (Exprit); 2, Josh Gray (Tonykart); 3, James Johnson (CRG).
SENIOR ROTAX – 1, Josh Collings (CRG); 2, Matthew Dowers (Tonykart); 3, Craig Mooney (Intrepid).
ROTAX 177 – 1, Wayne Stone (Tonykart); 2, Richard Phillips (CRG).

Abbi lands a winner

ABBI VAUGHAN, wife of Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan, landed the ladies' open race at the Albrighton Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Sunday with her seven-year-old bay gelding *Picaroon*.

The former winning steeplechaser is owned by Mrs Kate Smith-Maxwell and was ridden by Mrs Alex Dunn.

The open maiden race was won by Sally Randell aboard *How Nice*.

Abbi's husband Tim also had something to smile about when his promising five-year-old *Destroyer Deployed*, partnered by Richard Johnson, won the Translloyd Standard Open NH Flat Race at Fontwell Park making it two wins in three runs this season.

This Saturday, hunt-racing enthusiasts will be flocking to Llanfrynach in Brecon for the Brecon and Talybont Hunt Steeplechases; first race 1pm.

Barry under-8s 'try' very hard

Barry RFC under-8s	**11**
Llanishen under-8s	**7**

BARRY settled into the game straight away, and what a difference a year makes.

Last season, the visitors were too fast and too strong for the Barry team; how the tables have turned.

Playing with the slope in the first half, the home side ran in some very impressive tries from Z Fifield (two), J Roberts, I Maire Escott, C Saunders and Jacob.

The final try of the half saw young Jacob powering over the line from 15 yards.

In the second half, Barry put on a fine defensive display, as well as running in another five tries from J Roberts (two), E Galsworthy and C Saunders (two).

A number of players put a great shift in, getting first to loose ball, tagging, running and passing the ball with confidence in poor conditions. These were D Parry-Griffiths, Roberts, R Rendal, Galsworthy, Saunders, I Maire Escott, Fifield, Jacob and J Couch. **LS**

Penarth Computer Club

A TALK at Penarth Computer Club was billed as the best of free software and Kevin started by defining 'free software' and 'licence'.

It would appear that all is not as it is generally assumed to be. Software is the code that operates everything and has no physical body, as opposed to the hardware that it is possible to touch.

Firmware, is a kind of halfway house in that it refers to code that is coded directly into a piece of hardware and is not intended to be frequently changed.

What is software?

● Operating systems control what the computer does.

● Drivers control certain hardware and bridge between operating systems and that hardware. (eg printers).

● Programmes can be large applications such as Microsoft Office or Adobe Photoshop, or small programs for applications and minor duties.

Kevin asked who owned a genuine copy of Windows 7 or Windows XP. A show of hands showed a majority using Windows 7. Kevin then pointed out that no-one present owned a copy of either.

Microsoft's licence clearly states that they do not sell its products to customers. Customers purchase the right to use it "with agreements that define and govern how you may use the software".

The main licence types are: Paid - normal; Freeware – a licence to use without payment, usually for home use only; Free Software – totally unrestrained use or modification; Shareware/demoware – try before you buy, pay if you want to continue to use it.; Nagware – no compulsion to buy a licence, but it nags you if you don't; Shovelware – Software that as a condition of use also insists on installing other packages and unwanted software that comes pre-installed on new computers; Adware – Software is essentially free but will have adverts either in the header or side of screen or they might pop-up during use. Payment removes the adverts.

There are other more obscure types that ask for a local postcard from you. Why provide free stuff? Some of it really is something for nothing. A programmer might do it just to show his skill or because the big corporations are not to his liking.

A good example of this is Open Office. It is free to download and will do most of the things that users want. The paid-for stuff will be able to do far more things that you may never need.

The best free software? Kevin runs most of the free programmes that are shown our website. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

We next meet on Tuesday, March 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm. There will be a short session on keyboard shortcuts and a talk on iPhone apps. Visitors welcome.

HD

New venue for art society show

ABOVE: Maesteg Art Society members. From left to right: Jennifer Smith, Pat Jones holding her painting entitled 'The Old House', secretary Shirley Wells and Sally Joseph.

Maesteg Art Society is exhibiting work in the council-run Y Llynfi Library at Maesteg Sports Centre until Wednesday, March 30, Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10.30am-5pm.

Formed in 1984, the society meets once a week and each holds an exhibition in Maesteg Town Hall.

Society secretary, Shirley Wells, said: "We are delighted with the lighting and setting of Y Llynfi Library and are really pleased that we have found another venue to show people our work close to Maesteg town centre to complement our annual larger exhibition."

Local visitor, Francis Johnson, said: "Y Llynfi Library is a lovely venue to show these pictures. The paintings are all really varied and very good, well done."

GEM sport

Two down, but another two mountains to climb for Wales

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

"We are under no illusions about how tough it's going to be… History shows us it's going to be a very hard day at the office, but we have picked a side to go out there and win…"

THE guarded words of backs coach Robert Howley before leaving for Rome, hinted at underlying nervousness in the Welsh camp preparing to meet Italy at Stadio Flaminio on Saturday.

On the surface, this may have seemed surprising, given in fact that 'history' had recorded Wales had won 11 of the 14 matches between the two, with one match drawn in Cardiff.

Also, only two weeks before, England had put Italy's current status firmly in perspective with an overwhelming 59-13 victory (admittedly on home ground at fortress Twickenham).

However, it was the shadow of two Rome losses – and in particular, the shock 30-14 reverse as recently as 2007, that hung over an injury-ravaged Welsh camp still struggling for cohesion and confidence, despite finally ending a prolonged run of defeats against Scotland two weeks earlier.

In the event, Howley's anxiety was justified, for it really did turn out to be a 'hard day at the office', with Wales desperately clinging on to a narrow five-point lead – and the issue only put beyond doubt by James Hook's drop goal in the dying minutes, for a final score-line that read 24-16.

It again proved Italy's ability to compete on equal terms with Wales – gaining the upper hand up front – resulting in a glut of possession and territory in the second half, most of which Wales spent in frantic rear-guard defence, limited to Hook's three points.

Last week, this column suggested that *confidence, control* (in every sense of the word) and *error-count* would be the deciding factors in this match, and so indeed it proved to be the case.

Having begun in sparkling fashion, and going ahead with a Stephen Jones penalty inside four minutes, Wales almost immediately gifted a soft try through the first of all too familiar basic errors and acts of indiscipline that against a better side would have cost them dear.

As it was, they were fortunate that the resulting 15 penalties they conceded were not punished more severely, owing to Italy's own limitations and the lack of a reliable goal kicker.

The pity of it was that once again this Welsh team showed fleeting glimpses of their true worth, typified by the two well-worked, first half tries by wing Morgan Stoddart and flanker Sam Warburton (the latter's try converted by Jones) in which James Hook was prominent.

Two more penalties by outside half Jones gave them a comfortable 21-11 lead at half time; but the second half then saw Wales 'switch-off' and the match plan went awry as old failings crept in. Thus it was no surprise when sustained Italian pressure finally earned a try.

At the end, the Welsh camp were relieved to get a second hard-fought Six Nations win under their belts and in a disappointingly low-quality encounter, will at least take encouragement from a superb defensive effort. At the same time, they can be under no illusions about the scale of improvement needed before the Irish come to town on March 12.

Mind you, Ireland also have problems of their own, after being given a scare, first by Italy, and then by Scotland, in their less than convincing 21-18 win in Edinburgh on Sunday.

As for Wales, the usual calls for Stephen Jones' head, and his replacement by James Hook, have already been renewed by certain media pundits – as though he alone is to blame for Wales' shortcomings.

In fact, the problems go much deeper than the narrow 'either-or' issue of who wears the Number 10 shirt.

The reality is that with the Rugby World Cup looming ever nearer, Wales like every other participant nation will need viable options in all positions to be available to the coaches. That, surely, is the purpose of having a *squad*!

While Jones is obviously nearing the end of a distinguished, if under-rated career, it seems premature to write off a British Lion with 98 caps, especially when Wales is not exactly blessed with world class talent.

Having said that, the multi-gifted Hook's day in the sun will certainly come (though on the fields of France rather than Wales!); and may have come sooner, if the Ospreys region had given him the chance to establish himself as an international outside half, rather than causing him to be seen as an all-purpose utility back par excellence.

Recognition for young footballers

Gwennan and Georgia.

GWENNAN DAVIES and Georgia Roberts-Powell, both 11, are celebrating a double selection success in girls football this season.

The girls began playing football with Llantwit Major boys under-8s teams, as there are currently no girls' football teams in Llantwit Major.

Gwennan was 'spotted' by a Cardiff City FC scout while playing for the boys and has played for their development squad for three seasons.

She also joined Dinas Powys girls under-12s to develop her football, and Georgia joined her a year later – both girls play for the team every Sunday as part of the south Wales girls league.

Georgia was also selected to play for the Cardiff City FC development squad this year and both girls have been progressing really well and recently played a match against the west Wales development squad.

They were delighted to receive a letter informing them they had been selected to train with the national development squad, with a view to representing their country.

They attended a fantastic training day in half-term at University of Glamorgan with the squad and hope that they are on the road to a successful football career – well done girls!

SD

Latest results from Barrivale

Ian Jones and Lyn Matthews, winners of the recent mixed pairs championship.

TUESDAY, February 15: First: Mark Roderick and Betty Lewis – 66.67 per cent; second: Jane Brook and Mike Close – 65.97 per cent; third: Irene Thomas and Graham Jones – 54.76 per cent; Mark and Betty also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; for more information ring 01446 733425. **MB**

Dragons put defeat behind them – and move on in League Cup

Barry Town	**4**
AFC Porth	**2**

THE DRAGONS went into this fourth round League Cup match hoping to put Saturday's disappointing reverse against Caldicot Town behind them.

Dan Clare and Lewis James were back from suspension, but Atif Bashir (suspended) and Anthony Nagi (cup tied) were unavailable.

The team started well against their second division opponents and were soon on the attack, but the final pass was not quite accurate enough.

It did not take long though, for the first goal to arrive when a superb pass to Ryan Jenkins saw him ghost past a couple of Porth players before playing a delightful cross into the box, where Josh Bell swept the ball home.

Neither team were able to make any headway against very strong defences and although Porth forced a few corners, there was little threat.

The second half started well for The Dragons as they kept the ball on the floor as much as possible and started to create a few chances.

The Porth area was under constant pressure and it was no surprise when Rob Blatchford controlled the ball and fired home an unstoppable shot to give The Dragons a 2–0 lead.

One would have expected Porth to feel that the game was slipping away from them but they immediately went on the attack to try to reduce the arrears.

A ball played over the top of the defence allowed Stuart Brock to cut into the box and fire a shot in from an acute angle, where Dan Bradley could only palm the ball onto the underside of the crossbar and watch the ball bounce into the net.

The Dragons reacted to this setback by once again pressurising the Porth defence and on 67 minutes, Ryan Jenkins fired home to restore The Dragons two goal advantage.

The game was now all but over at this stage and The Dragons created a few more chances but some wild shooting kept the score down until the 88th minute, when a Kurt Bettles header from a corner powered past the Porth keeper.

Porth were to have the last word when Craig Davies scored deep into time added on when keeper Dan Bradley looked to have been fouled.

The Dragons were well worth the win but will be disappointed to have conceded another two sloppy goals.

Dragons: Dan Bradley; Geraint Frowen, Dan Clare (sub. Lewis James), Kurt Bettles, Lewis Cosslett, Rob Blatchford, Sam Hartrey, James Saddler, Mike Hartley, Josh Bell (sub. Zaki Misbah), Ryan Jenkins. **DC**

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